

Hafa Adai!

Woman accused of hitting husband with car pleads guilty to DUI. » **PAGE 3**

'ESA designation could have adverse effects on Rota' » **PAGE 6**

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXV, Issue No. 19

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 28, 2015

www.saipantribune.com

75¢

TO MEET THE NEEDS OF CASINO INDUSTRY

'Size of govt should increase'

» Transition report also says govt must stop 'political hiring,' look at green energy, create devt planning commission

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Best Sunshine International Ltd.'s \$7.1-billion integrated casino development on Saipan would necessitate the administration of Gov. Eloy S. Inos to look into increasing the government's bureaucracy, especially staffing at the Division of Customs and other revenue collections-related agencies.

This was one of the recommendations cited by the Committee on Transition when it made public the summary of its findings and recommendations yesterday.

"With the future growth brought upon by the casino

See SIZE on Page 4

Former S. Korean president on Saipan

Former South Korean president Myun Bak Lee is on Saipan and is staying at the Lao Lao Bay Golf and Resort.

Saipan Tribune learned through multiple sources that Lee is on a personal vacation with his family. Lee arrived on Sunday and will be staying on the island for 10 days, sources said.

Lao Lao Bay Golf and Resort declined to comment or confirm Lee's presence.

Sources said that Lee declined any contact with the local media and denied several interview requests. CNMI government offices, including the Office of the Governor and Department of Public Safety, have also declined to comment or release any information on Lee's visit.

According to sources, the CNMI government was

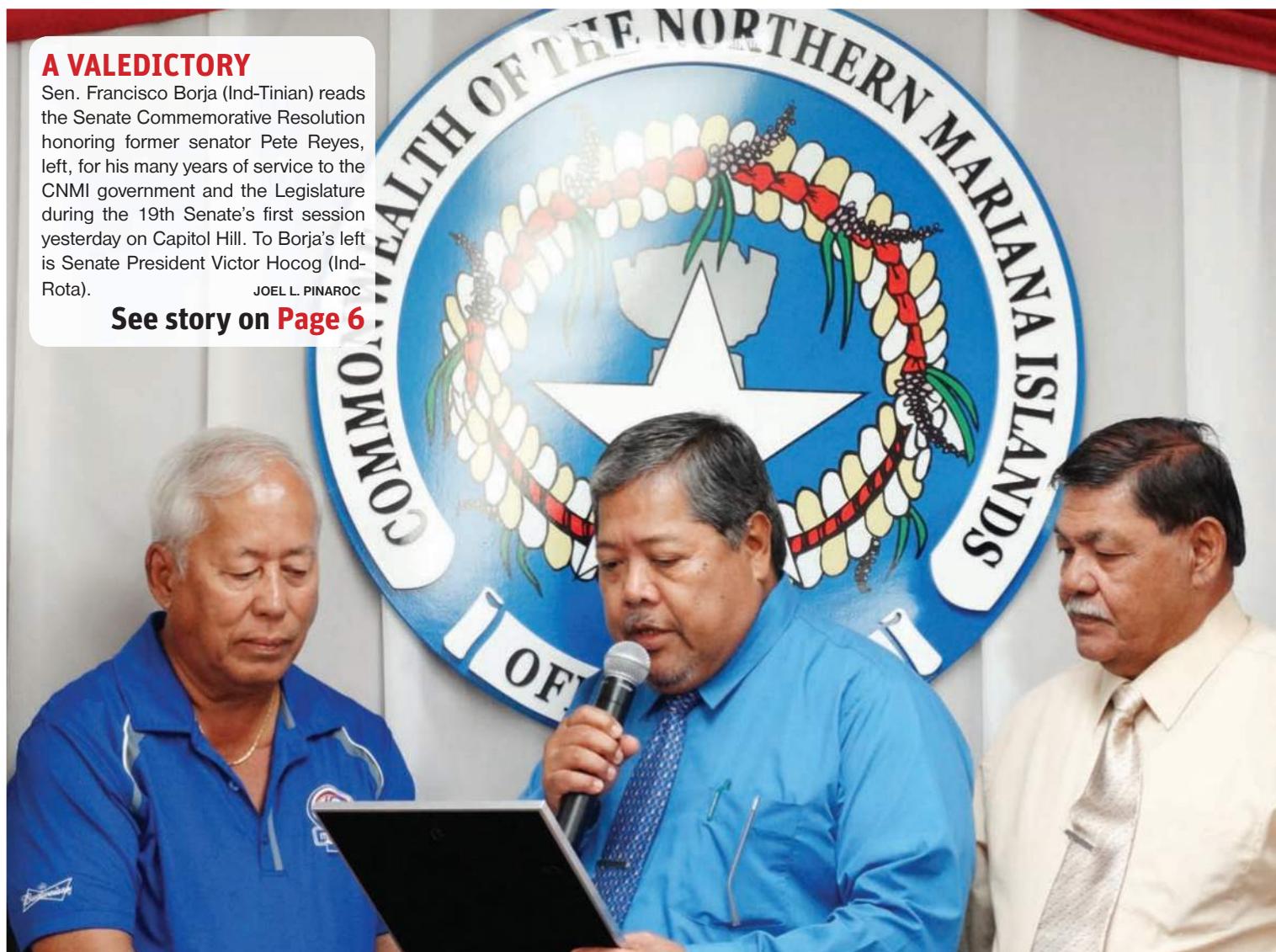
See FORMER on Page 4

A VALEDICTORY

Sen. Francisco Borja (Ind-Tinian) reads the Senate Commemorative Resolution honoring former senator Pete Reyes, left, for his many years of service to the CNMI government and the Legislature during the 19th Senate's first session yesterday on Capitol Hill. To Borja's left is Senate President Victor Hocog (Ind-Rota).

JOEL L. PINAROC

See story on Page 6



'Li last seen visiting accounting office'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Missing Saipan Fresh Market owner Zhi Yuan Li was last seen visiting an "accounting office" in Puerto Rico, *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday.

A Chinese employee of a tire shop in Puerto Rico disclosed that Li did not visit their shop

See LI on Page 4

Man wearing wig robs Star Poker

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An unidentified man brandishing a sharp object robbed a poker arcade along Beach Road near Quartermaster Road last night.

The suspect managed to run off with \$541 in cash from Star Poker, according to Department of Public Safety police spokesman Travis Hurst.

The suspect was described as about 5'9" tall,

light complexioned, wearing a black wig, and had a blue long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans.

Hurst said DPS Central Dispatch received a call at 6:11pm about an armed robbery at Star Poker located along Beach Road just north of Quartermaster Road.

According to witnesses' accounts, the suspect entered the arcade, forced his way into the cashier's room brandishing a sharp object and demanded money.

See MAN on Page 4

INSIDE

NATION

A fearsome storm swirls in with the potential to paralyze the Northeast for days.

» **PAGE 14**

ASIA

At least 43 Philippine policemen are killed in a fierce battle with Muslim guerrillas.

» **PAGE 15**

FOCUS

A dwindling group of survivors mark Auschwitz 70 years on.

» **PAGE 17**

GOT A NEWS TIP?
TEL: 235-6397
235-2440

FAX: 235-3740
EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com



Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Partners in Education

Would like to acknowledge faithful sponsors who are committed to education in the CNMI. Thank you all for ensuring that our children receive the world's most up-to-date textbook: the newspaper.

PLATINUM SPONSORS

Mobil®

- Oleai Elementary School
- Garapan Elementary School
- W.S.R. Elementary School
- G.T.C. Elementary School
- Koblerville Elementary School
- San Vicente School
- Mouth Carmel School
- Seventh Day School

Tan Siu Lin Foundation

- Dandan Elementary School
- G.T. C. Elementary School
- Koblerville Elementary School
- Oleai Elementary School
- Saipan Southern High School
- W.S.R. Elementary School
- Tanapag Middle School
- Kagman Elementary School

GOLD SPONSORS

Brabus
Pharmacy and Wellness Center

- Oleai Elementary School
- Saipan Southern High School
- Koblerville Elementary School
- Kagman High School

COSMOS
Distributing Co., Ltd

- Hopwood Jr. High School
- Marianas High School
- Garapan Elementary School
- Tanapag Middle School

SILVER SPONSORS

BRIDGE CAPITAL, LLC

- Mount Carmel School
- Garapan Elementary School

Shirley's COFFEE SHOP

- San Antonio Middle School
- Oleai Elementary School

CO-SPONSORS

IT&E
Life in Motion

- Saipan Southern High School

Richard & Marian Aldan Pierce

- W.S.R. Elementary School

SBR ENTERPRISES

- Green Meadow School

Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic

- Seventh Day Adventist School

TakeCare®

- Grace Christian Academy

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Oloomway.

Local

San Nicolas: \$28K fee, costs are 'justified'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas asserts that his submitted fees—\$26,019 in attorneys' fees and \$2,203.25 in costs—are reasonable and justified.

San Nicolas, through counsels Matthew T. Gregory and Viola Alepuyo, said large amounts of the billed time in connection with former mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz's failed election challenge involved two lengthy hearings and several motion hearings.

San Nicolas defended his request for fees and costs in his reply to Dela Cruz's opposition to his motion for judgment on attorneys' fees and costs.

Dela Cruz, through counsel Mark B. Hanson, is opposing San Nicolas' request for \$28,222.25 in fees and costs, describing the amount as "unwarranted and patently unreasonable."

In San Nicolas' reply, Gregory and Alepuyo said the Superior Court can take notice of the time spent and these billings for "in-court" time cannot be questioned.

The lawyers said Dela Cruz claims the fees are unreasonable because he alleges that some of

these billings are expressed as block billings.

Block billing refers to the lumping together of several tasks into a single block of time, which prevents an accurate assessment of time actually spent on a particular work.

Gregory and Alepuyo said San Nicolas would be happy to submit this to the court's discretion and review based on the standards of Model Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 1.5 (attorney-client fees).

The lawyers said they filed two successful motions—the first resulted in a partial dismissal and the second a complete dismissal of Dela Cruz's claims.

"These pleadings are substantial and the court can make its own determination as to whether such billings are reasonable," they said.

The lawyers said a review of Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja's orders reveals that San Nicolas is entitled to fees and costs as the proceedings were dismissed by the court for insufficient evidence and the court confirmed the election result.

Gregory and Alepuyo said all that is required under the law for an award of fees and costs is an order confirming the election result.

Thus, they pointed out, under the plain language of the statute, San Nicolas is entitled to fees and costs.

On the timeliness issue, the lawyers said the Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure requires a movant to file a motion no later than "14 days after entry of judgment."

Gregory and Alepuyo said Dela Cruz contends that San Nicolas' motion for attorney's fees is untimely because the matter should have been appealed on Dec. 15, 2014.

The lawyers said a CNMI Supreme Court case resolves this matter, contrary to Dela Cruz's interpretation. They noted that the high court found that "because the issue of costs is distinct from the summary judgment earlier entered, a separate notice of appeal from the subsequent order taxing costs is required."

Clearly, the lawyers said, San Nicolas was not required to appeal Naraja's Dec. 12 order confirming the election result, therefore, Dec. 15 is not the due date for such a motion.

In his lawsuit filed last Nov. 12, Dela Cruz alleged several irregularities during the Nov. 4, 2014 election. Naraja dismissed the election challenge on Nov. 11.

GRACE CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY
30 ANNIVERSARY
1985 - 2015

Rejoicing In God's Greatness

CONCERT

Come out join us in a night of celebration and worship!

Date: January 30, 2015
 Venue: The Amphitheatre, American Memorial Park
 Time: 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Featuring performances from local youth groups from various churches on Saipan.

Woman accused of hitting husband with car pleads guilty to DUI

A woman accused of using her car to hit her husband while he was on a motorcycle in Dandan in 2013 pleaded guilty yesterday to driving under the influence of alcohol.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo sentenced Denise Benavente to a year in prison, all suspended except for three days, with cred-

it of three days of time served. That means she will no longer serve time in prison.

The 28-year-old Benavente was placed on supervised probation for a year. Her driver's license was suspended for 30 days, but with limited privileges of driving to and from work, including emergencies.

During her probation, Benavente is prohibited from buying and drinking any alcoholic beverages. She was ordered to pay a \$500 fine, \$75 probation fee, and \$25 court costs.

As part of the plea deal, the remaining charges of assault and battery, reckless driving, and disturbing the peace were

dropped.

Defense attorney Brien Sers Nicholas served as counsel for Benavente. Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds represented the government.

According to a police's preliminary investigation, the Benavente couple had been drinking with other people at their

house on June 29, 2013, when Denise Benavente got into an argument with a family friend. She then allegedly got mad when her husband refused to take her side.

When her husband left on his motorcycle, she followed him on a car and allegedly hit the motorcycle twice. The husband

crashed and sustained broken bones on his feet. He told police it was only an accident, but bystanders allegedly saw the car hitting the motorcycle twice.

Denise Benavente's blood alcohol concentration was later found to be at .117. The legal BAC limit is .08. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

More acidic ocean will be a challenge to the CNMI's marine environment

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson.camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Climate change and one of its associated effects, ocean acidification, will be a challenge for the CNMI's marine environment in the years ahead, according to a federal environmental official yesterday.

John McCaroll, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 manager for the Pacific Islands, who spoke at the weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Saipan at the Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday, said the ocean chemistry is changing due to the extra carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

"There has been a big increase in carbon dioxide and the ocean is about 30 percent more acidic" since the start of the Industrial Revolution, he said.

According to McCaroll, ocean acidification is not good for coral, shellfish or anything that needs calcium carbonate to grow.

He cited the oyster industry

in northwest side of the United States when the larvae needed to grow oysters suddenly wouldn't grow and started dying off in 2005. Billions of larvae were lost. Then same thing started happening in the northeast coast of the U.S. and went down to the west coast as well.

Scientist figured out that the water's chemistry had changed—it was more acidic and harder, with fewer calcium carbonate ions. That made it harder for the little creatures to grow, McCaroll said.

Scientists then looked at areas where carbon dioxide was emitted from underwater volcano vents, including the "Ring of Fire" in the Pacific Ocean just south of Japan, a place just off of New Guinea, and an island near Italy.

"They found there shellfish that only had half of their shells and missing big parts of the shell. They started recreating the situation in the labs and found the same thing, that the shell wasn't

growing," McCaroll said.

From there, some scientists predicted that in 50 to 60 years, corals may be on a terminal decline and would all be just rubble a hundred years from now it. Other scientists, however, contend that the matter has not been studied enough.

"So maybe there are places out there that might have coral that is resistant to this kind of thing. There are some coral species resistant to some climate changes in some parts of the world. So they have been looking but there aren't any published studies yet. But I am aware that scientists are looking at areas where types of coral are likely to be resistant. But it's still not a good situation and a lot of the coral may be in trouble and the ocean food web may be in trouble. All this might be in trouble and the source of problem is the carbon dioxide," he said.

What can be done?

What could be done to potentially stop this from happening is

basically reduce carbon dioxide emissions nationally, McCaroll said. EPA has proposed regulations to reduce the emission of carbon dioxide from existing power plants and the regulations are supposed to become effective this June.

"There is a local component because nutrients from the land were going into the sea. That happens all over and all kinds of nutrients such as fertilizers, sewage, sediment, and animal waste go in the ocean," McCaroll said.

This makes the role of environmental regulatory agencies doubly important. "It is important that someone will need a permit for going forward [with any project]," he said.

"There are many ways to be smart about this such as working with project engineers and project designers to build in features that protect the environment and...working with the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Equality," he added.

McCaroll stressed that the CNMI is an asset and should be protected.

"I'm going to say that the CNMI's natural environment is an asset. This is a huge asset; there are a very few places like this. That is why people want to come here. So as more people do come here it is important to remember that however the CNMI grows, we need to protect this asset and we need to protect the environment," he said.

FHB wants lawsuit moved to federal court

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Faced with a lawsuit that questions its decision to freeze the bank account of a private company, First Hawaiian Bank has asked that the lawsuit be transferred from the CNMI Superior Court to the federal court.

First Hawaiian Bank, through counsel Richard L. Johnson, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to accept the notice of removal of the lawsuit filed by Universal Group Development Inc. (Saipan).

Johnson told the court that he has spoken with attorney Mark Scoggins, counsel for Wan-

zhong Yu, and that Scoggins advised him that Yu consents to the removal of the lawsuit to the district court.

Yu is Universal Group's former president and shareholder and a co-defendant in the lawsuit.

Johnson said Universal Group filed the lawsuit in Superior Court last Dec. 30 and that First Hawaiian was served with the summons and complaint last Jan. 6.

Universal Group, through counsel Samuel Mok, is suing its former president and shareholder, Yu, for conversion and the First Hawaiian Bank for breach of contract.

Mok alleged in the complaint that Yu and First Hawaiian

Bank caused Universal Group to be unable to access \$225,000 of its own funds from a business savings account.

Mok asked the court to declare the company as the lawful owner of the funds contained in the business savings account. He also asked the court to order the bank to allow the company immediate access to the account.

Mok also disclosed that Yu was arrested in China when he traveled to that country in 2013 for embezzlement and theft, among other charges.

Universal Group operates the Hailan Market and Oriental Dumping Restaurant on Saipan. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Bill wants expiration of prepaid mobile phone credits removed

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel.pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A bill has been introduced to prohibit telecommunications companies in the CNMI from imposing an expiration date on unused prepaid credits of mobile phone users.

Introduced by Sen. Teresita A. Santos (R-Rota), Senate Bill 19-05 also seeks to compel telecommunications carriers to roll over the remaining balance to mobile users until the credits have been used up.

The bill said customers who purchase cellular prepaid cards are compelled to use the credits purchased within 30 days.

Failure to use the amount pur-

chased by the expiration period will result in the forfeiture of the credits, which is a financial loss to customers, the bill states.

The bill notes that "mobile phone users who can only afford a cellular prepaid plan should not be forced to use all credits prior to the expiration date nor should they be penalized for having a remaining balance by the expiration date."

A prepaid cellular plan allows a mobile phone user to purchase credits, depending on his or her usage or budget. For many, a prepaid plan allows them to "customize" their cellular phone use.

In contrast, a postpaid plan means a mobile phone user will

pay a fixed amount on a regular basis for the cellular service. The convenience of the postpaid plan is that the mobile user need not "load" his or her mobile phone anytime it runs out of credit.

Santos, in a phone interview, said she has gotten feedback from prepaid mobile phone users who have expressed dismay over the expiration date of prepaid credits.

The lawmaker said there are no plans yet to meet with telecommunications carriers and it will be up to the specific Senate committee if such a meeting will be initiated.

SB 19-05 was one of the new bills discussed in the first regular session of the Senate of the 19th Legislature on Wednesday.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated \$1,240,460.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of \$868,915.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$309,294.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$62,251.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2015.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning January 06, 2015.

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by Friday, March 23, 2015, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after March 23, 2015, will not be accepted.

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows: February 18, 2015, 5:00 p.m. & February 25, 2015, 5:00 p.m.

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in Songsong Village.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planning Assistant at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp



NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2015

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated \$1,240,460.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of \$868,915.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$309,294.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$62,251.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2015.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning January 06, 2015.

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by Friday, March 23, 2015, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after March 23, 2015, will not be accepted.

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows: February 18, 2015, 5:00 p.m. & February 25, 2015, 5:00 p.m.

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in Songsong Village.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planning Assistant at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

NAP: Over 100K applicants OK'd in 2014

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson.camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The local food stamp program, Nutrition Assistance Program, served a total of 100,295 applications last year, according to NAP administrator Walter Macaranas.

In an email to *Saipan Tri-*

bune, Macaranas said NAP served a monthly average of 8,358 clients on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands last year.

Based on NAP data, about 92,199 applications were approved on Saipan; 4,201 on Tinian; 104 on the Northern Islands; and 3,791 on Rota.

Most of the approved applications were in January 2014 totaling 8,494.

Last year's total of 100,295 is a decrease compared to 2013, which saw 109,511 applicants and a monthly average of 9,126 applications.

In 2013 about 3,923 applications were approved on Rota; 68

on Northern Islands; 4,307 on Tinian; and 101,213 on Saipan.

Macaranas said a total of 332 applications were denied last year and 400 back in 2013. This was due to the lack of required documents or the applicants were not eligible for the program.

The decline in the number

of NAP applicants last year is being attributed to the minimum wage increases, among other things.

Federal funding for the NAP has been on the rise since 2009. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) set the goal of "equal treatment" for needy families in the CNMI

when he was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. In April that year, he was able to convince Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to increase the food assistance grant to the Commonwealth by 13 percent, and later boosted the annual grant to the current \$12.148 million.

State plan for special education due in April

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System Special Education program is drilling down on years of data to form a State Systemic Improvement Plan, or SSIP, ahead of an inflexible April 1 deadline.

SpED director Suzanne Lizama and Early Intervention interim coordinator Robin Palacios spoke to the Board of Education yesterday on the annual performance reports for their respective programs, describing the SSIP in the works.

The SSIP is a federal mandate that essentially lets the states "decide what is it you are going to do increase or improve results for kids with dis-

abilities," according to Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan at the meeting.

An SSIP task force composed of principals, general and special education teachers, and curriculum and instruction staff was formed last year to tackle the plan.

According to Palacios, the SSIP in the works will reflect two to three years of data facilitated through technical help of the University of Guam's CEDARS program.

For Early Intervention, she said the SSIP would focus on the "child outcomes" area.

"For the past four years, the CNMI has not made any progress or gains in regards to this outcome area. Indicator

coma pickup truck, the family member said the police have yet to return the vehicle to them. The family member said police may give back the truck on Friday.

A police officer doing patrol found Li's truck abandoned on a dirt road between Ladder Beach and Obyan Beach last Jan. 18 at 8am. Police towed the vehicle and processed it. The truck reportedly had no damage when it was recovered.

A family member yesterday clarified that the \$50,000 cash reward will be given to anyone who can find or pinpoint the whereabouts of Li.

Li's family reported his disappearance to police last Jan. 17 at 7:56pm.

employee's cashier on Monday night.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio said he regretfully did not have the authority to answer, when asked to confirm or deny the former president's stay on Saipan.

Lee is the 10th Korean president and served from 2008 to 2013. (Jayson Camacho/Dennis B. Chan)

11 [SSIP] will allow us to focus more on this [child outcomes] indicator and develop a plan to have children increase behaviors to appropriately meet their needs," she told board members.

"We are currently in the process of completing phase 1 of this process so we can hopefully by April determine what are the root causes. We do have bits and pieces of this but there is no determination as of why right now," she said.

For the SSIP, she said they are required to desegregate date, looking at children ages at

referral, their concerns at referral, whether they came in with Down syndrome, deaf or blindness for example, or if they have a developmental delay. They also looked at providers, how long have they served the family, how long has family received services, she said.

"We looked at many areas to try to figure out why progress is not being made," she said.

Lizama said that PSS is "drilling down, drilling down, and drilling" in their work on the SSIP, which she described as similar to a "complete self-

civil servants.

"Several government employees feel that they have been underpaid considering their workload aggravated by limited staffing. Additionally, many of the senior employees have been working for numerous years with the same pay level. Salary increases should serve as motivation and incentive to retain these individuals for their hard work, dedication, and commitment."

The report also said the absence of performance standards and a code of practice that would enable government employees to be more efficient and productive has driven the culture of "political hiring" rather than employment based on merit.

The transition committee also wants the implementation and enforcement of drug-free workplaces and counseling programs to continue, adding that the recent tragic incidents of murder and suicide involving police officers reinforce the need to make counseling services available to law enforcement agencies.

Dev't planning commission

The transition report also recommends that the Commonwealth develop and formulate a strategic development plan and this could only be achieved by establishing a Comprehensive Economic Development Planning Commission.

This entity should be comprised of public and private entities to allow both sectors to collaborate in developing a unified but comprehensive plan.

It added that the Department of Commerce and Commonwealth Development Authority should work with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to formulate and imple-

mentation" that will lead them to come up with a goal statement for the program.

She said this goal statement will "most likely be around literacy," as according to her, across the nation and the CNMI, literacy and reading scores have stagnated.

"But we cannot just say that 'Kids will increase literacy scores by whatever percentage.'

We got to drill it down even further. What is it about literacy? What is the something or sometimes—is it specific schools, or is it specific kids, specific disability categories? So that is what we are all looking at now. Does ethnicity make a differ-

ence? Does disability...does time spent in general education make a difference?" she said.

PSS has been working on the plan the last three years, according to Sablan, undergoing professional training and bringing "key players" in to make sure the data they need is had.

According to her, there is no flexibility to the April 1 deadline, as all states were given charts on when these reports were supposed to be met and submitted in years past.

She said the SpED team and their stakeholders have been working on these indicators or target areas late through the night, ahead of the deadline.

and the socio-economic conditions of the people of the CNMI.

Embrace alternative energy

The transition committee said the CNMI should seriously confront the issue of energy security.

It said its overdependence on fossil fuel means the Commonwealth is at the mercy of the volatile price of oil in global markets. It recommends that the CNMI embrace solar, geothermal, wind, or other sources of alternative energy.

The transition report also said the government must seriously reassess and reevaluate how it procures its fuel for the islands' power plants.

"For too many years, the CNMI has been primarily relying only on two local fuel suppliers. Oftentimes, both fuel suppliers seem to control the local price of fuel. On future RFPs for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s fuel purchases, the announcements should include off-island fuel suppliers."

It also said the CNMI should investigate the feasibility of constructing its own fuel tanks, or fuel farms, to accommodate other cheaper fuel suppliers while maintaining sufficient reserves for emergencies.

The Committee on Transition, which was created shortly after Inos and Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres won the gubernatorial runoff last December, is headed by chair Gregorio M. Camacho and vice chair James Ada. It also has nine-member panel made up of Rufin S. Inos, Edward C. Deleon Guerrero, Esther S. Fleming, Mathilda A. Rosario, Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), and Torres' brothers Vince, Victorino, and Joaquin.

LI

From Page 1

but the office next to their shop last Jan. 17 at about 11am.

Police earlier said the storeowner was last seen on Jan. 17 at 11am, seeing a person at a tire shop in Puerto Rico.

The employee, who refused to be named, said Li was in the office possibly for "some documents." He did not elaborate.

Saipan Tribune checked the office yesterday afternoon but no one was there.

Li's family member disclosed yesterday that the office in Puerto Rico does the accounting work for Li's business.

As for Li's white Toyota Ta-

FORMER

From Page 1

informed about the impending arrival of Lee and his family by the Korean Consulate in Guam.

Saipan Tribune first learned of Lee's visit through social media, as one employee at Star Sands Plaza claimed on Twitter that the former South Korean president had paid at the

employee's cashier on Monday night.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio said he regretfully did not have the authority to answer, when asked to confirm or deny the former president's stay on Saipan.

Lee is the 10th Korean president and served from 2008 to 2013. (Jayson Camacho/Dennis B. Chan)

MAN

From Page 1

The robber fled the scene after getting the cash.

DPS is seeking the public's assistance in arresting the suspect.

"Anyone with information is asked to call DPS or the Crime Stoppers hotline at 670-664-9001 or 670-7272," Hurst said.



JOETEN MID-WEEK SPECTACULAR SALE



(WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, JANUARY 28 & 29, 2015)

Great Savings Throughout The Store!

BAR-S BACON 1# \$395	CSR SUGAR 4.4# \$245	White Rain Shampoo or Conditioner 18oz \$159	Royal Cotton Swabs 375 \$175	Royal Cotton Balls 100 Count Jumbo Cotton Balls \$179	Mirro Pressure Cooker 4 qrt \$4399
ACE OF DIAMONDS TUNA 7oz \$145	PALM CORNED BEEF HASH 11.5oz \$345	Rubbermaid 5 gal Cooler \$5199	Storage Box 6 qrt \$489	Anchor Bake Set \$2749	Reventon Stock Pot 7.5 oz \$2199
PALM LUNCHEON LOAF 11.5oz \$245	COUNTRY GOODNESS SKIM MILK 1 LTR \$145	Corelle Salad or Cereal Bowl \$599	Hot/Cold Casserole Bag \$679	Personal Voice Link System \$629	Vidal Sassoon Hairdryer 1875w \$2249
Area Rug 5x7 \$4299	Aqua Globes 2/pk \$1149	Lasko 20" 3 speed Boxed Fan \$2999	Child Chair Assorted Color \$999		

**Keds®**

HAPPY SINCE 1916™

**50-75% OFF
SELECTED CLOTHINGS
AND FOOTWEAR**

BESUTO CRACKER ASSTD. 500G 	CALMAID GRAPEFRUIT JC UNSWT 46z 	U.S. POTATO RUSSETT/ IDAHO (S) 	U.S. ONION YELLOW
SUNSWEET PRUNES RTS COOKED 16z 	WESTERN PUDDING CHOC INSTANT 6oz 	U.S. APPLE FUJI WASH /LB 	U.S. ORANGE CHOICE/FANCY
WESTERN OLIVES RIPE MED PIT 6z 	WESTERN SODA GINGER ALE 1LTR 	U.S. BROCCOLI CROWNS /LB 	U.S. TOMATO ROMA
\$1.79	\$2.79	79c	69c
\$2.99	\$1.29	\$1.59	\$1.19
\$1.59	99c	\$1.99	\$1.99



Awareness-Education-Hope

**SCRATCH,
WIN & FIGHT X CANCER**
SEE POSTERS FOR DETAILS
Proceeds benefit the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

SCRATCH & WIN TICKETS:
\$1.00 EA.**Joeten Shopping Center**P.O. Box 500137 Saipan, MP 96950 - Tel. 234-6446/48 Fax. 234-5876
Visit our 4-Branche: Joeten Susupe, Garapan, Dandan and Kagman

We accept major credit cards

We welcome Food Stamps
We reserve the right to limit quantities

'ESA designation could have adverse effects on Rota'

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A proposed rule to protect endangered flora and fauna could have adverse effects on the residents of Rota, one of the three major islands in the CNMI.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed a rule to protect 23 species found in Guam and the CNMI and has recently reopened the proposed rule for public comment.

Under the Endangered Species Act, designated habitats can no longer be used either for housing or agricultural purposes.

In a letter to Kristi Young, Deputy Field Supervisor, Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sen. Teresita A. Santos (R-Rota) said she understands "the necessity for the protection and conservation of such species [but] I also understand that such listing possibly creates

adverse effects on the people of Rota as well."

The lawmaker said the island of Rota is relatively small, "yet it has several conservation areas currently in place."

"To further designate additional critical habitats outside of these areas will lessen the already sparse land available for future development," Santos wrote, adding that Congress is currently addressing legislation to authorize the review of areas

on Rota for possible inclusion in the National Park System.

"One such example is the agricultural homestead issuance stoppage due to the presence of the Marianas crow, which took almost 20 years to be resolved," the lawmaker wrote.

Conceivably, she said, it would be reasonable that current conservation areas also serve as critical habitats. "This will ensure the protection of such species and not inhibit future development for the

people of Rota," she wrote.

Santos said she is grateful that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be conducting public hearings on all three islands to gather new information from the public and the scientific community prior to making the final determination.

The Service said it will hold two public hearings and four public information meetings.

These additional meetings and hearings will give all in-

terested parties more time and opportunity to comment on the proposed rule, the agency said.

The public comment period will close on Feb. 11, 2015.

The 23 species proposed for listing comprises 14 plants, four tree snails, two butterflies, one insectivorous bat, one skink, and one damselfly. Two of the plant species—*Cycas micronesica* and *Tabernaemontana rotensis*—are proposed for threatened status; the other plants and animals are

future of the islands.

"Never forget to assist and support the education of our children. Invest in our children," he said.

The former U.S. Army veteran has donated over half a million of his salary as a legislator to the CNMI Scholarship Office. To the estimates of Reyes' wife, Glenna, the senator has donated some \$550,000 to the scholarship agency since 2000.

Former senator Pete Reyes eyeing corporate stint

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After a long stint as a member of the CNMI Legislature, former senator Pete Reyes may be head-

ing into the corporate world.

The 68-year-old former Senate floor leader was honored during the first regular session of the 19th Senate yesterday.

Reyes, in an interview with local media, hinted he is looking at the possibility of taking on a consultancy post for a private firm.

The former lawmaker did not disclose other details, saying only that things are still being finalized and that he has yet to make a decision to join the private firm in a consulting capacity.

Reyes also did not disclose the name of the potential company or the line of work he's looking at, adding only that he is now a "member of the public."

A commemorative plaque that lists his major accomplishments in 23 years as a lawmaker was handed to Reyes by his former colleagues during the Senate session.

Reyes told reporters he is deeply "grateful and honored" to receive the tribute. He said the honor "means a lot," since he "worked with a lot of them" in the past.

His former colleagues said they will still turn to Reyes for guidance.

Senate President Victor B.

Hocog (Ind-Rota) said the Senator will still seek Reyes' advice, while House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said Reyes will always be known for his analytical view and institutional knowledge of the law as well as issues concerning the CNMI.

In an earlier report, Reyes bid his colleagues goodbye by reminding them to "not forget their loved ones and families."

"I ask you members to please divide your time. Serve the public to the best of your ability but also take time to pay a little more attention to your family.

They're children now but before you know it they're already teenagers," said Reyes.

Aside from the value of family, Reyes also asked incoming members of the 19th Legislature not to forget prioritizing education, which he believes is the lifeblood and

Matson donates \$500 to Rotary Club



Matson Navigating Co. representative Marites Yumul, second from left, presents a \$500 check to Saipan Rotary Club president Richard Cody, far left, for their ongoing projects. Others in photo are Rotary member and director Marcia Ayuyu, second from right, and Rotary member Curtis Dancoo.

JAYSON CAMACHO

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ANZ GUAM, INC., formerly known as CITIZENS SECURITY BANKS (GUAM), INC., Plaintiff, vs. JESUS T. LIZAMA dba VICTORIA HOTEL, J&J'EY ENTERPRISES, INC., and the BANK OF GUAM, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 00-0296 D

(AMENDED) NOTICE OF AUCTION AND JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of the Amended Judgment made and entered in the above titled action on 30th day of January, 2001, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due to Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Directing Foreclosure Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 27th day of March, 2015 at 10 a.m., at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

a. LOT 001 D 13, (formerly known as Block 3, Lot 1), as more particularly described Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 D 00, the original of which was registered 30 SEP 70 as Document No. 512 at Land Registry, Saipan.

b. LOT 001 D 14, (formerly known as Block 3, Lot 2), as more particularly described Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 D 00, the original of which was registered 30 SEP 70 as Document No. 512 at Land Registry, Saipan.

c. TRACT 21732.9, part of original Tract 21732.R1.AH 140, as more particularly described Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2085/04, the original of which was recorded 08 AUG 84 as Document No. 84-1439 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.

b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c) to reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rtlaw@pticom.com and rtlaw@gmail.com.

3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Plaintiff, ANZ GUAM, INC., formerly known as CITIZENS SECURITY BANKS (GUAM), INC.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and ANZ GUAM, INC., reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 07th day of January, 2015.
/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Vice Chairman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that a Regular Board Meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC's Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes
 - i. October 2, 2014 Special Board Meeting Minutes
 - ii. December 11, 2014 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
 - iii. December 17, 2014 Special Board Meeting Minutes
 - iv. January 7, 2015 Special Board Meeting Minutes

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a. Division Reports
- b. RD Matters

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Garapan Annex RFP

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Loans for Review and Approval

VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. OTHER MATTERS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ TOM GLENN A. QUITUGUA
Vice Chairman of the Board

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Division of Coastal Resources Management P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel.: (670) 664-8300 • Fax: (670) 664-8315 • www.crm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing on the proposed Honest Profit Saipan Resort Hotel permit application (No. SMS-2014-X-066). The permit application was submitted by the Honest Profit International Limited to construct 312 hotel rooms, suites and villas, coffee shop, banquet hall and meeting rooms, restaurant and bar, swimming pools, garden pool, tennis court, a wedding pavilion, numerous stores and shops, and 263 parking stalls. Included in the proposal are four (4) on-site power generators to ensure that project is self-sufficient. The proposed project site is located on public land, Lot No. 004 I 52, north of Pacific Islands Club Resort, San Antonio, Saipan.

The public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 6:00 PM at the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality conference room, Suite 205, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Caller Box 10007 or by fax at 664-8315. The project file is open for review and comment during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M., Monday thru Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application record and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed project.

Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Honest Profit Saipan Resort Hotel.

/s/ Frances A. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

Matson Foundation Co. donated \$500 to the Rotary Club of Saipan yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan during the club's regular meeting.

Matson representatives, including former senator Ray Yumul's wife, Marites, and another employee, were guests of Rotary director Marcia Ayuyu.

Ayuyu, who is also the owner and operator of the two McDonald's Restaurant on Saipan, said it was at a meeting with Matson general manager Bernie Valencia when Valencia asked her what she did for the community.

"I explained what I did in the community and that I was a member of the Rotary and we do a lot of things for the community" she said.

Ayuyu said Valencia then called her back and told her that Matson would donate at least \$500 for now and that they will try to find a way to help the Rotary Club in their ongoing projects such as the Kagman Family Park and the Rota Dental Clinic.

Ayuyu said the Rotary will use the \$500 for the Kagman Family Park. (*Jayson Camacho*)

Calling vocal and instrumental solos, duets, ensembles

It's the time of year for the region's largest music event, the 11th Tumon Bay Music Festival. Events include:

- Solo & Small Ensemble Festival, March 7

- Pop Concert "Jazz, Rock & Beyond", March 8
- Band & Orchestra Festival, March 9 & 10
- Chamber Music Concert, March 11

- Choral & Hand Bell Festival, March 12 & 13
- Finale Concert & Award Ceremony, March 14

This educationally-enriched music event provides semi-

nars, lectures, school visits and performance opportunities featuring musicians of all ages.

Individual singers and instrumentalists can also sign up

- Festival Massed Choir
- 2015 Festival Honor Band (for Middle and High School students)
- Tumon Bay International

Wind Orchestra

For more information on each event, visit <http://tbmf-guam.org> or call 797-6299.

Direct link to online application: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10HFqwbUPhpNIBzG7xek3SrFbkBYlRRVk-UMruczb9Pc/viewform>. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

2 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the Hidden Beach and the Old Man by the Sea on Saipan and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified. Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

Free OSHA workshop today

Rick C. Foster of the Compliance Office, Honolulu Area Office, will present a free workshop today, Jan. 28, 2015, on severe injuries and new record-keeping reporting requirements effective Jan. 1, 2015, for workplaces under federal OSHA; the importance of having a safety and health plan in place; and federal OSHA jurisdiction in

the Pacific. The workshop will be held at WIA Building No. 1215, Capitol Hill from 9am to 12pm. (PR)

High surf advisory cancelled

The National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, cancelled the high surf advisory for the region. According to the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the north-northeast swell has subsided so that surf has fallen below hazardous levels and thus the high surf advisory has been cancelled. (KHS)

Kagman High sets sessions with parents

Kagman High School will be having four sessions for parents in the Kagman, Capital Hill, and San Vicente areas and four sessions for parents in Tanapag, San Roque, and As Matius areas. The dates are as follows:

- KHS Cafè: Feb. 7, March 7, and April 14
- Tanapag Head Start Center: Jan. 31, Feb. 21, March 21, and April 18

Finale will be May 2 and it

OVR counselors to hold outreach in Susupe

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation counselors will be conducting an outreach session at the House of Manhoben, located behind the cemetery next to Susupe Chapel on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2015, from 9am to 11am. An applicant is eligible for vocational rehabilitation services if the individual: 1) has a disability; 2) has a physical or mental impairment which for that individual constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment; and can benefit in terms of an employment outcome from vocational rehabilitation services; 3) requires vocational rehabilitation services to prepare for, secure, or retain

employment; and 4) has legal status to allow employment in the CNMI or United States. (OVR)

Private schools invited to membership meeting

The Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools is inviting all private schools in the CNMI to attend an open membership meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 3:30pm at Mount Carmel School's faculty lounge. The purpose of the meeting will be to allow current and prospective members of the coalition to submit required items for membership, as well as to move forward with several initiatives.

Private schools on Rota and Tinian may also participate in the CCOPS meeting via Google Hangouts. For more information, contact CCOPS president Galvin Deleon Guerrero at galvin.deleonguerrero@gmail.com. (CCOPS)

Air Force training at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at Warning Area 517 from 2am

to 2pm and 8pm to 11:59pm on Jan. 29. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the area during the times and date indicated. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprised of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. (PR)

SHRM to hold first 2015 meeting Thursday

The Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter will host Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres as its special guest speaker at the group's first general membership meeting of 2015, this Thursday, Jan. 29, at Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club. The program will include the installation ceremony for the 2015 board.

This meeting will be held from 11:30am to 1:30pm and will include lunch at a cost of \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats

are limited and can be reserved by contacting Micah Parico-Acuvera by phone at 234-1795 or by e-mail at corpooffice@triplejsaipan.com or by e-mail to Frank Gibson at frogibson@yahoo.com. (SHRM)

NMDC closed on Jan. 30

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. would like to let the public know that our office will be closed on Jan. 30, 2015, from 8am to 5pm, for Staff Development. Business will resume on Feb. 2, 2015. (PR)

NMDC membership meeting set

The Northern Marianas Descent Corp., a chartered non-profit, will hold a general membership meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2015, starting at 6pm, at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan. The agenda includes developing and adopting the 2015 Community Action Plan; membership recruitment; election of officers & standing committees; and updating the NMDC *amicus curiae* filed with the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. (PR)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-15-010

WATERLINE REPAIRS FOR LEAK DETECTION, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Waterline Repairs for Leak Detection Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of excavation to verify leaks and perform leak repairs on various types of waterlines and appurtenances. Materials for leak repairs are to be provided by CUC. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC. The duration of the contract is one year (365 calendar days) from date of award with an option to extend for an additional year, contingent upon funding and if exercised by CUC.

This project is funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the US-EPA.

The IFB package (electronic disk file) may be obtained from the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one IFB package set. Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on February 4, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Waterline Repairs for Leak Detection, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 24, 2015, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 5, 2015 to Manny B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer, Procurement & Supply Division, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, Engineer, Water/Wastewater Division via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-15-001, Rev. No.1

Steel Roof Enclosure for CUC Rota Power Plant Used Oil Secondary Containment No. 1, Songsong Village Rota, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced construction firms for Steel Roof Enclosure for CUC Rota Power Plant Used Oil Secondary Containment No. 1 in Songsong Village, Rota. Contractor shall provide and pay for all the labor, materials, tools, equipment, transportation, temporary construction of every nature and all other services and facilities necessary to execute, complete and deliver the work within the specified time frame.

A pre-proposal site visit is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 11, 2015 at the CUC Rota Administration Office in Sinapalo, Rota. All potential proposers are encouraged to attend, to familiarize themselves with the site conditions. However the site visit is not mandatory for the potential proposers, owing to the difficult logistics and uncertain air transport.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$50.00 for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by February 12, 2015, 10:00 a.m. (ChST) to be considered. Registered proponents of the initial CUC-RFP-15-001, are exempted from paying the package fee for CUC-RFP-15-001, Rev. No.1.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP-15-001, Rev.1 Steel Roof Enclosure for CUC Rota Power Plant Used Oil Secondary Containment No. 1" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than February 20, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**.

The Proposer is required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – <https://marianaslabor.net/>.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to CUC and the Attorney General.

A *Payment and a Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment & Performance bond shall be executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the Commonwealth or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC and the Attorney General, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 13, 2015 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Stipulated Order 2 Project Coordinator via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Kia'aina seeks climate change coordinator for OIA

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Assistant Secretary for the Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina has established a new climate change coordinator position in the Department of the Interior to help leaders of the U.S. insular areas plan and prepare for the impacts of climate change in their respective jurisdictions.

This position, which is now open for applications, has been established as part of a Department-wide effort to implement Executive Order 13563 and the

President's Climate Action Plan to prepare the United States for the impacts of climate change by building a more climate-resilient America and leading international efforts to address the threats of climate change.

The applicant will work closely with senior leadership at Interior and collaborate with other federal agencies to help the insular areas develop robust responses to the effects of climate change.

"The people of the insular areas, both in the Pacific and

the Caribbean, are increasingly vulnerable to climate change threats to their infrastructure and natural resources, including sea-level rise, coral bleaching, and salt water intrusion all of which impact quality of life and destabilize food and fresh water sources," said Kia'aina. "We want to strategically collaborate and leverage the various federal initiatives and funding sources by working with the insular areas on strengthening or implementing their climate change

adaptation plans."

Interested applicants for the position of climate change coordinator should have demonstrated experience in insular areas issues and climate change policies, preparedness, or adaptation plans. They must also possess excellent written and oral communications skills and the requisite skills to evaluate climate change funding proposals and conduct public outreach efforts. The application period is open from Jan. 26, through Monday, Feb. 9, 2015. Interested ap-

plicants may apply online through USAJOBS at links listed below.

- <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/392132100> (all U.S. citizens)

- <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/392125000> (federal employees and non-competitive eligibles)

The Department of the Interior is responsible for coordinating federal policy with respect to the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth

of the Northern Mariana Islands, and administering and overseeing U.S. federal assistance provided to the Freely Associated States of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau under the Compacts of Free Association. The Office of Insular Affairs mission is to foster economic opportunities, promote government efficiency, and improve the quality of life for the people of the insular areas. (**DOI**)

Study: Climate change to affect wave, wind effects on Pacific Islands

SANTA CRUZ, Calif.—According to a new report released by the U.S. Geological Survey, climate changes during the 21st century are expected to alter the highest waves and strongest winds across U.S. and U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands. The detailed calculations provided in the report will be useful for managers developing coastal resilience plans or ecosystem restoration efforts, and for engineers designing future infrastructure.

Information on changes in waves and winds under global climate change is crucial to understanding the sustainability of existing infrastructure and natural and cultural resources, as well as to planning for future investments such as renewable wind and wave energy for is-

lands, or for understanding the viability of coastal-related economic activities such as fishing and tourism. Wave- and wind-driven processes drive flooding and inundation of coastal land, potentially resulting in damage to islands' infrastructure, freshwater supplies, and natural resources, and harming federally protected species such as nesting seabirds. Such impacts may only be exacerbated in the future with projected trends in sea-level rise.

"With little to no publicly available historical wind and wave data for most of the U.S.-affiliated Pacific islands, and no future projections of waves and winds for different climate scenarios, there was a great science and management need

to understand how waves and wind might change in future climates," said Curt Storlazzi, USGS oceanographer and lead author of the study.

Scientists from USGS and the University of California, Santa Cruz, ran four global climate models (developed for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), using them to drive a global-wave model to look at the projected changes in wave heights, wave periods, and wave directions, and wind speed and wind direction on three Hawaiian Islands and 22 other locations on U.S.-affiliated islands in the Pacific Ocean. Modeling results project that wind and wave patterns will change over the years throughout the century, and also over certain months

and seasons within each year. "Natural resource managers, communities, and engineers will all benefit by being able to prepare for the shifts in inundation risk shown by this study. This work shows that the degree of change we see will depend on how greenhouse-gas emissions change," said Jeff Burgett, Science Coordinator for the Pacific Islands Climate Change Cooperative.

Scientists first ran the models for the years 1976 – 2005 and compared them to the few available historical instrumental data in order to make sure the models were functioning properly, then ran them for the different future time spans (2026 – 2045 and 2085 – 2100) for two different climatic scenarios—increasing

greenhouse-gas concentrations until mid century, followed by reduced emissions (known as scenario RCP4.5), and unfettered growth of emissions (scenario RCP8.5).

The spatial patterns and trends are mostly similar between the two different greenhouse gas concentration scenarios (scenario RCP4.5 and scenario RCP8.5), although the results of the study reveal some differences among islands. The magnitude and spatial extent of the trends are generally greater for the higher-emissions scenario (RCP8.5).

In general, extreme wave heights (the top five percent) are projected to increase from now until mid 21st century and then decrease toward the end of the

21st century. Peak wave periods (another measure of intensity) increase east of the International Date Line and are forecast to decrease west of the International Date Line. In equatorial Micronesia, extreme waves and winds are projected to undergo substantial (greater than 20 degrees) shifts in direction.

The full USGS Open-File Report 2015-1001, "Future Wave and Wind Projections for United States and United States-Affiliated Pacific Islands," by Curt D. Storlazzi, James B. Shope, Li H. Erikson, Christie A. Hegemiller, and Patrick L. Barnard is available online at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2015/1001/>. This research was supported by the Pacific Islands Climate Change Cooperative. (**USCG**)

GMS congratulates forensic participants, winners



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Green Meadow School students that participated in the Primary Grade Forensic Competition held at Oleai Elementary School on Jan. 17, 2015, have their picture taken with school officials and teachers.

Buien Joseph Din (2nd Grade)

Nicole Sacramento (3rd Grade)

■ 3rd Place, Duo Interpretation:

Interpretation: Ariel Legaspi (3rd Grade) and Kriselle

Bryana Mitzy Drilon (3rd Grade)

■ 4th Place, Impromptu Speaking:

Interpretation: Angeline Norcio (5th Grade)

PGFC WINNERS: 3-5 DIVISION

■ 1st Place, Choral Speaking:

Honey June Satur (3rd Grade), Liana Daca (3rd grade), Kriselle Bryana

Mitzy Drilon (3rd Grade), and

■ 5th Place, Duo Interpretation:

Eonzen Dela Paz (5th Grade) and Earl Lawrence Salamat (5th Grade)

■ 5th Place, Choral Speaking:

Kristin Jewel Dela Cruz (3rd Grade), Lorenz Espiritu

(3rd Grade), Elijah Umali

(3rd Grade) and Arnel Josh Coloma (3rd Grade)

MATH COURT QUALIFIERS

■ Angelene Faith Cacdac

■ Cloe Ferlyn Lagmay

■ Angeline Norcio

The school management, staff, parents, friends and supporters congratulate students of Green Meadow School for participating and winning major honors at the Primary Grade Forensic Competition held at Oleai Elementary School on Jan. 17, 2015. Congratulations also to GMS students that competed in the Nov. 15, 2015, Math Court held at Hopwood Junior High School for qualifying to the Math Court islandwide (regional) competition that will be held on Jan. 31, 2015. GMS officials express their sincere appreciation to teachers and coaches for the good job of preparing the contestants for the two competitions and to the parents for their support."

PGFC WINNERS: K-2 DIVISION

■ 1st Place, Humorous Interpretation: Vimarie Alna Alfeche (K-5)

■ 2nd Place, Humorous Interpretation: Tristan Yanto (K-5)

■ 2nd Place, Duo Interpretation: Keith Diane Ebuen (2nd Grade) and Angel Cryzelle Manalo (2nd Grade)

■ 3rd Place, Dramatic Interpretation: Tristan Yanto (K-5)

■ 3rd Place, Reader's Forum: Trishitonhy Jean Duarte (K-5)

■ 4th Place, Reader's Forum: Zeus Corvin Zara (1st Grade)

■ 4th Place, DUO Interpretation: Gwen Denise Lagmay (1st Grade) and Lvinna Palma (1st Grade)

■ 5th Place, Reader's Forum:

Trishitonhy Jean Duarte (K-5)

■ 5th Place, Reader's Forum: Zeus Corvin Zara (1st Grade)

■ 5th Place, Reader's Forum: Gwen Denise Lagmay (1st Grade) and Lvinna Palma (1st Grade)

2015 MTEC Tourism Summit draws 600-plus students

The annual Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism Summit for public school students drew over 600 students to the Saipan World Resort on Jan. 22-23, 2015, to learn about tourism and express their own thoughts on the Northern Marianas' primary economic driver.

"Each school year, the MTEC spends time with the students, sharing information and encouraging their participation in the tourism and hospitality industry," said Vicky Benavente, MTEC chairwoman. "I am grateful to the CNMI businesses such as the Mariana Resort, T Galleria, Docomo Pacific, and PDI. These are some of the key players who help to pump out the message that tourism is indeed everybody's business."

This year's summit was divided into elementary schools on the first day and middle and high schools on the second. On day one, guest speaker Glenn Polycare, director of Sports, Entertainment and Activities at Pacific Islands Club Saipan, gave attendees homework: 1) greet each tourist with a friendly "Hafa Adai, Tirow" 2) Keep beaches and the islands clean, and 3) Create a positive memory for tourists.

Dr. Fred R. Schumann, associate professor of Global Resources Management in the School of Business and Public Administration at the University of Guam, addressed secondary level students on Jan. 23, 2015, reminding students that "we are in the business of making people happy," and that the "software" people of a destination are just as important as the "hardware" externals of a destination.

MY WAVE Clubs from the schools reported on their activities over the last year. Students also had breakout sessions where they brainstormed and presented their thoughts on questions such as: What are some tourist sites and what makes them special? List five things to see and do in your community and explain why tourists would enjoy them? If you will work in the tourism industry, what types of jobs would you be interested in and explain why. What do you think you can contribute to the CNMI tourism industry today and in the future?

Opening remarks were delivered by Marianas Visitors Authority managing



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Rep. Lee Guerrero, seated right, chairman of the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism, is joined by other VIPs at the MTEC Tourism Summit on Jan. 22-23, 2015, at Saipan World Resort. Pictured from left are MTEC board member Chris Concepcion of Delta Air Lines, Marianas Visitor Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, vice-chairman of the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism Angel Demapan, MVA Community Projects assistant Charlene Mendoza, MTEC chairwoman Vicky Benavente, Guerrero, MTEC board member Larry Lee, and MVA Community Project manager Martin Duenas.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Guest speaker Glenn Polycare of Pacific Islands Club Saipan give students at the 2015 MTEC Tourism Summit a homework assignment to greet visitors, keep the island clean, and create a positive memory for visitors. The summit was held on Jan. 22-23, 2015, at Saipan World Resort.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Students of Kagman Elementary and other schools brainstorm and share ideas about tourism during the MTEC Tourism Summit on Jan. 22-23, 2015, at Saipan World Resort.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Dr. Fred R. Schumann, associate professor of Global Resources Management in the School of Business and Public Administration at the University of Guam, addresses middle school and high school students at the MTEC Tourism Summit on Jan. 22-23, 2015, at Saipan World Resort.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Hopwood Jr. High School reports the results of a survey students conducted on tourism as part of their MY WAVE Club report at the MTEC Tourism Summit on Jan. 22-23, 2015, at Saipan World Resort.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Chamorro dance troupe *Simiyan Mañaina-ta* performs at the MTEC Tourism Summit on Jan. 22-23, 2015, at Saipan World Resort.

director Perry Tenorio on opening day and by MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres on Day 2. Attending VIPs included Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero and Rep. Angel Demapan, chairman and vice chairman of the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism respectively.

Exhibits were also set up by the MVA, Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, Bureau of Environmental Quality, and Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

MTEC was formed in 2002 to heighten the community's awareness

of the importance of tourism to the wellbeing of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. MTEC's stated mission is three-fold: to foster community understanding and support of the visitor industry; educate the general public, especially school students, about the value, social benefits, and economic contributions made to the community by the visitor industry; and to instill, improve, and promote the "Hafa Adai" hospitality spirit throughout the island community. (**MTEC**)

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXV, Issue No. 19

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Cancer and bad luck

Albert Einstein famously said that "God doesn't play dice" with the universe: Everything is by design.

But could getting cancer be a random roll of dice? Could it be that cancer is more about bad luck than heredity, unhealthy behaviors or harmful exposure to a range of environmental toxins and pollutants?

A recent study in the journal *Science* reached the astonishing conclusion that two-thirds of the risk of getting many cancers is attributable to "random mutations" when healthy cells divide. Mutated cells trigger chaotic growth that leads to cancer.

The researchers' conclusion: Bad luck, not bad behavior or heredity, steers a huge number of cancer diagnoses.

"Getting cancer could be compared to getting into a car accident," write the co-authors, Cristian Tomasetti and Bert Vogelstein of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. The longer the trip—the more often stem cells divide over a lifetime to replace dying cells—the greater the chance for an accident that triggers cancer.

People who brush aside doctors' warnings about how smoking, obesity and other behaviors contribute to cancer may be tempted to say: See? My fate is determined by unpreventable gremlins in the body's cellular machinery. Either I get lucky or I don't. It's all out of my hands.

Not so.

It's true that the study suggests that there is a greater dollop of random good or bad luck in cancer than many scientists expected. Tomasetti told *The New York Times* that the risk was "about double what I would have thought."

But this study isn't a license to ignore all those warnings. Luck plays a role in cancer. But so do other factors in human control.

Dr. Leonidas Platanias, director of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, tells us: "The fact that (the Hopkins authors) attribute certain tumors to random mutations doesn't absolutely exclude environmental or other factors that we have not well defined and may be contributing." In other words, cancer is complicated. There is much scientists don't know. All those tumors now attributed to "bad luck" may actually be prompted by specific factors that doctors haven't pinpointed yet.

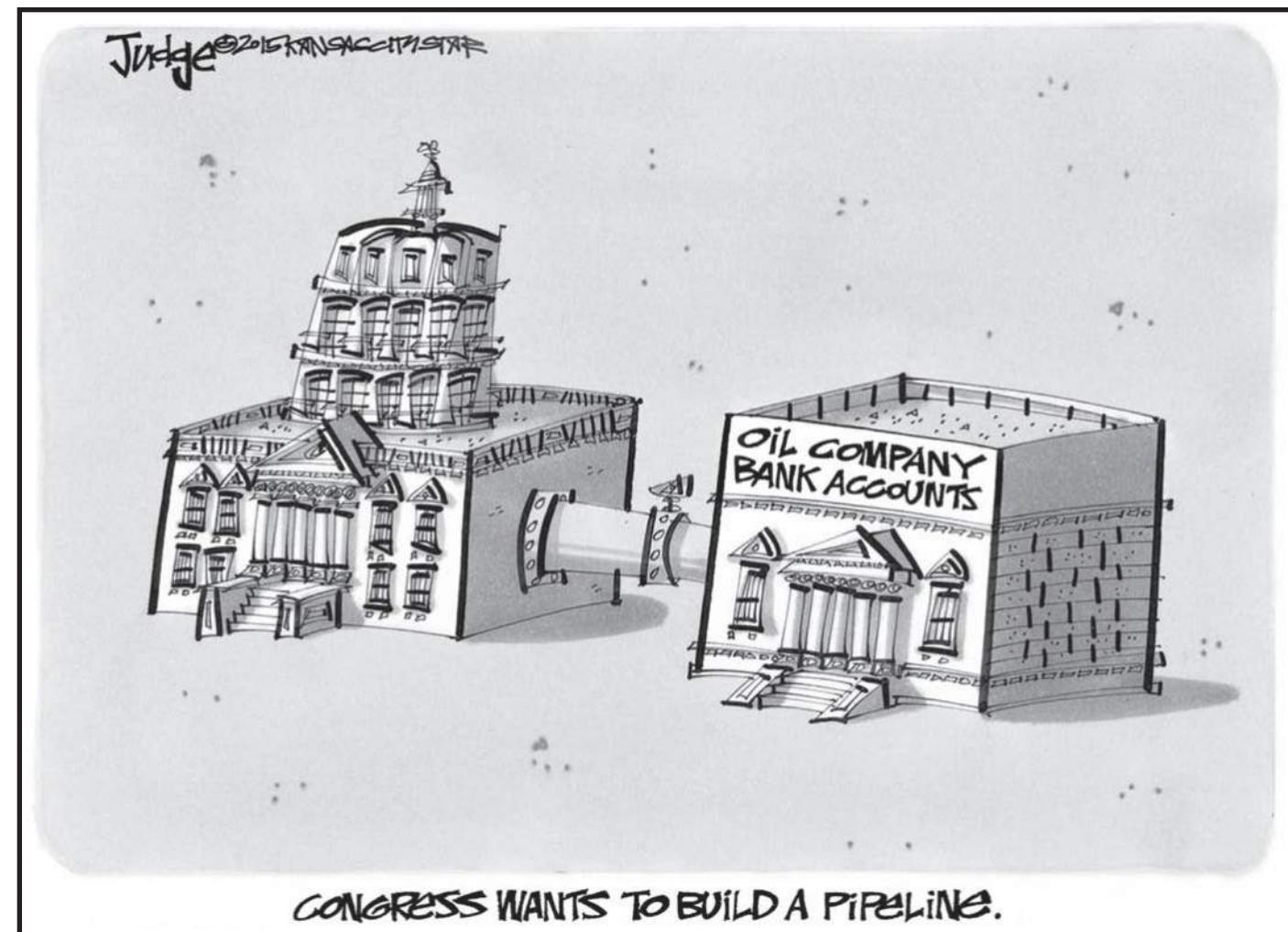
People often ask doctors what caused their cancer. Doctors often can't answer that question. This study has been comforting to many cancer patients, and particularly to parents with children stricken by cancer, Vogelstein tells us. "Parents often feel guilty that they should have done something to prevent the cancer," he said. "We've heard from a lot of people saying, 'I always felt I did something wrong and now you're telling me these are just random things that you could not have prevented, and that's a great comfort.'"

Measuring cancer risks is imprecise. Random luck often plays a role. But that's not an argument to abandon a healthy diet, stop exercising, start a three-pack-a-day cigarette habit, or skip the cancer screening. Remember, some cancers remain highly treatable, even curable, if caught early enough.

Every cigarette shaves seven minutes from your life, researchers say. Maybe every stalk of broccoli you eat adds a few seconds. Your behavior—how you take care of yourself—can help you avoid illness or recover more quickly.

Be smart about risks. Nudge the odds in your favor.

(c)2015 Chicago Tribune



Zhinoy

I wrote a bio-profile last year titled 'Sang Pinoy' for my celebration of my Pinoyhood, whose national focus took a back seat to the "earthrise" that I pledged allegiance to in 1968, but its cultural tailings stayed around my meditative council. It will now come to a close this last visit to "the land of the morning."

Having appropriated what certainly was a Hakka influence on our family DNA, and since "China" is a term given by the Persians to the Silk Road traders they called the "people of the Qin," carried into Western history after Marco Polo's popular account of his adventures, I also appropriated the term that the Han and their 55 other kin give themselves: *Zhongguoren*, the people of the middle realm.

"Zhong" the "middle" in the common name of the nation, *Zhongguo*, is translated often as the "Middle Kingdom" of national self-importance, with those around its boundaries as the "unwashed *hoi polloi*," obligated to give it obeisance like the former colonies of European aristocracy.

With China's new preeminence in the West Pacific, U.S. President Obama in his 2015 SOTU was heard not only to affirm a determination to keep dictating the trade rules in Asia but to dominate it. Immediately politicized, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov of Russia responded: "It shows that the United States wants all the same to dominate the world and cannot merely be first among equals." He evidently misread Obama who did say that continuing to dictate trade rules in Asia is to make sure the playing field is level.

As reported in the Beijing's *Global Times*, Nanjing Mayor Miu Ruilin admonished Obama: "Don't issue unrealistic slogans or plans as failing to accomplish them will be at the detriment of the government's public credibility." The mayor may now be on the short list to follow Israel's Netanyahu who may be a GOP invite to address Congress.

I wanted to title this reflection *Zhinoy*, clearly a play on earlier 'Sang Pinoy' but also to highlight the revered term *Zhong*, heretofore a geographical middle, but also the center as the pivot point of the *yin-yang* where a contradiction spins and revolves tranquility under pressure.

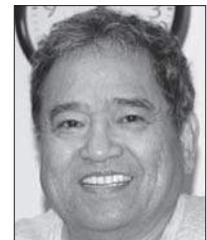
I decided on a pinch of a *Zhinoy* to keep the metaphor in the muddled middle without reducing the virtue of both *Zhong* and *Pinoy*. We commerce in mix metaphors. Why not? It is not uncommon these days to ask what color one sees of the rain, or the smell of success?

In China where water is the most crucial resource, and with the desertification of many parts of the world along with the extremes of weather, clean potable water is increasingly the challenge we globally face. We admire the extent Microsoft's Bill Gates went to prove that the engineering of the Gates' Foundation-funded Omni-processor produces potable water by drinking it himself in

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



public, a sign that common waste sludge can be made drinkable. (One report used the children "poo-poo" term, while another went directly with "feces.")

On being *Zhinoy*, we will certainly go the Bill Gates route. It is not enough to simply talk about the new; one has to risk one's whole being in embodying what one desires, means and intends. Bill and Melisa Gates are determined to deliver drinking water around the world and they will not hesitate to use technology and their wealth to accomplish their ends.

We intend with our remaining years to create the *Zhinoy* by being him/her/it! The *Pinoy* of our appropriation is worldwise and street-smart. Now, we will have to find ways of describing what a sensing, feeling, learning, and doing *Zhinoy* appears like in the tableau of contemporary glocal existence.

Tracing my connection to the *Ke Jia* Hakka, perhaps of the Tulou tradition, I find myself at once at the vanguard as well as at the periphery of the Chinese culture and civilization. Cojuangco traces part of its roots to Fujian, an area not deemed friendly to the Han between the Huanghe and the Chang Jiang, forced to migrate, including the boat people, to places like Hong Kong and the New Territories of Kowloon, congregating in the area between Fujian and Guangdong. We labored with a Hakka village in the '70s.

In any case, our new creation combines the worldwise, street-smart of the *Pinoy*, to the adventures of the Hakka that has been a vanguard and a stilling presence in the Han communion. We could not ask for a more challenging mission to our projected life exit.

We live in a time when teachers and students form partnerships to tasks of mutual learning, no longer a hierarchical setup of tutor and tutee. Sino trade go places in search of partners to earn a profit together rather than have one exploit the other culturally, socially, and economically, a dominant over a supplicant in the relational gates.

Blazing into glory is hardly our intent. We are intrigued and called to engage by the hankering of our soul, and the stirrings of our DNA. To be *Zhinoy*!

Is this enough selfie for you, Elmo? Not about me, silly. About you! What new creation have you decided to be this day?

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published.

The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity;

and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Magoo's book of wisdom

My buddy Magoo and I took a break along the beach one beautiful sunset. Our mission was laughter as self-anointed beachside or armchair "know it all" procrastinators.

We wanted nothing but humor. A well-deserved break is in order after more than a decade of the thematic word "stagnant"—you know, paychecks that have been fossilized since recent past.

Snorkel v. dives: Freshman Sen. Sixto Igisomar is likely to change from snorkeling to diving in an all out effort to recover the Marianas black box (NMI coffers) downstairs. Snorkeling is now secondary—near surface patrol—to detect pennies from 300 feet up that may be buried in the sand.

Is the NMI black box equipped with communications technology we could use to determine how we took such vicious swerve into fiscal impotence or bankruptcy? He would also use oxygen tanks so he could do underwater feasibility study on the various uses of marijuana! It's all dedicated attempts to revive revenue generation amidst the global economic slowdown! Biba!

Governor Gym: Impeached former governor Benigno R. Fitial wanted to establish a legacy as the education chief. Instead, he built a gymnasium on private land when there are hectares of public land nearby. I publicly call on OPA for an audit of this decision.

We deserve to know the scheme or entire nine yards and the reasons for skipping public land. PSS board chair Junpan promises to accept the facility if Fitial beats him to a one-on-one basketball game, provided Fitial doesn't use his wheelchair. Junpan fears being run over by the two-wheeler.

Restroom skit: Magoo said we should steer clear of cleaning them because Rep. Leepan has claimed ownership of it. "He's go-

ing to clean all public restrooms and now threatens to pick up trash all over the island." Sounds good but what about his primary role as a policymaker?

Tropical dementia: A shrink has been retained to meet individually with all elected officials. The goal is to pin down whether there's what a certain doctor calls "tropical dementia," a form of dementia that is only found in the tropics.

Magoo thinks the illness is endemic—meaning it only exists here—therefore it isn't pandemic. "Yep! Must talk to these guys who conveniently skip significant issues in glaring disconnection." He said he finds it embarrassing. I told him I'm already a regular in my crab hole.

Teleprompter: Delegate Kilili announced he likes Obama's redundant policy proposals. He's agreed to haul the teleprompter around so Obama doesn't tell another Yearend Lie. Mr. O allowed a Dr. Gruber to fool folks about his signature healthcare law that most find woefully expensive. He doubled down with a huge lie, you know, you can keep your doctor and health insurance plans we can't keep? Mr. O has built and would leave a legacy of lies! He should join the "tropical dementia" cabal here.

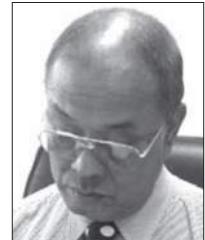
Serious illness: A good number of our people die of Type II diabetes or after bouts with dialysis, heart disease and cancer. Resolve: Find out how Chinese live longer than most people the world over. Follow their diet daily and we should be relatively healthy in our sunset years.

Test scores: NMC and PSS must have been meeting to resolve the anomalous result of test scores at the former where 90 percent of first-year students flunk the entrance exam. PSS declares, "We went teach 'em and you went flunk 'em." Both institutions must teach kids critical thinking, you know, "Thinking about your thinking,

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the *Saipan Tribune* and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



while you're thinking, in order to improve your thinking?" Magoo prefers declaring, "I'm not thinking anymore!"

Esta: It's a word that means "okay" we will abide. It's a word now under full rehearsal by the guys and gals in both the administration and the Legislature. It's a preparatory response to likely orders by the federal court that the NMI finds the money to pay CUC, Settlement Fund, EPA, etc. I could hear it in quick succession, "esta, esta, esta." Then the guys and gals would tuck their tails between their legs when exiting the federal court. Pay or play at the monkey house in Susupe.

2016 contest: The national Republicans have seen a long shopping list of presidential prospects or about nine of them today. It must necessarily work up a set of rules to accommodate the generational and ideological differences among the young and old warriors. No easy task for the GOP as it keeps an eye on the other side of likely contenders. Hell, bring 'em here so we teach them how to secure 10 silvers for utility vouchers that seals the election a day in advance!

Reforming the CNMI healthcare system

By GRANT E. WALKER, M.D.

SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: The following is the testimony offered by orthopedic surgeon Dr. Grant E. Walker in reference to Senate Bill 19-04, which proposes to transform the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. advisory board into a governing body. This testimony has been submitted to the Senate and House Health Care Committees.

Second part of a series

I saw nurses overworked when there could be a nurse student program so easily established. I have nothing but respect for these gifted and compassionate clinical and in-patient nurses. These Florence Nightingales (and some men) are top notch because they are nice and because most of them have four-year nursing degrees versus many that have two-year degrees in the mainland. The facilities personnel do so much to keep running this energy sucking hospital machine with its dated equipment

I so loved your patients and as an Idahoan we seem to have more in common than our cultural differences. One particular patient was 17 years old and she wanted to study nursing. She wanted to see the x-rays of her broken ankle but there was no wheelchair around, nor were there x-ray monitors in the cast room. With her mother's permission, I carried her to the nursing desk to show her the ankle fracture. Her mother thought I could have a good educational impact on her young one and invited me to their family's house for dinner. It was meager, with a carpet on dirt floor. It had exterior walls made from various pieces of construction tin layered together. They were

humble and I was honored that they invited me in to share.

I also saw a young local woman with an orthopedic complaint who also commented that she had a growing breast mass and no insurance. Can any man truly understand the stress on a woman who has a growing breast mass and cannot afford to get a biopsy? Every single day of her life she lived with the fear that it could be breast cancer and that she could lose her breast or worse, even die.

I approached one of the two caring general surgeons, and an anesthesiologist. The two of us came in when the clinic was closed and, with the help of the clinic nurse manager, the mass was removed in its entirety. The anesthesiologist was not allowed to administer anesthesia in the clinic but stayed for the whole duration, holding the scared patient's hand. We sent to the pathology lab. I paid for the processing charges myself. In fact, I bought shoes for patients and as a sidebar, drove around with dog food in my car for all of those skinny canines you have running the streets!

The orthopedic physician assistant was a heck of a nice enough young man but he was not supervised by an orthopedic surgeon who would be necessary for his CNMI license while he ran the CHC orthopedic clinic. Mistakes in judgment were made, not because of malice but because he lacked the education and experience of an orthopedic trained doctor.

Returning to the 70-year-old Japanese patient from Tinian, he had not seen a physician for some years so there is no telling what hypertension, lung problems or diabetes he may or may not have. I am the first to admit that I am OCD when it comes to patient care and I will not recklessly endanger a surgical patient by not having a thorough pre-operative clearance. A subsequent blood pressure of 180, blood sugars of 220 or a urinary tract infection may not be

life threatening when walking on the street but these and other risk factors significantly increase the complications and mortality in the first few days of the post-operative patient. I know because I am an American trained surgeon, and I have seen all this in training.

For this 70-year-old Japanese man with a hip fracture, I performed a history and physical examination to the best of my orthopedic abilities and requested that the patient be admitted for 24 to 48 hours to medicine service for preoperative clearance. There are plenty of orthopedic journal articles that show that without this in-depth clearance in order to discover potentially unknown co-morbid conditions, the mortality of the patient is substantially increased.

I received a telephone call from the director of Medical Affairs, "Dr. Walker, you will admit this patient to your orthopedic service." Now, in 28 years of healthcare I have never ever heard of anyone getting in the way of the direct doctor-to-patient relationship. Under no circumstances, whether it be in a courtroom, licensing board or one's own moral judgment, can anyone ever tell a surgeon to operate when he does not feel that there has been a proper pre-operative clearance. It is unethical and downright dangerous. CHC did not have an ethics committee. I was polite and tried to educate the DMA but it was no listening, no reasoning with the one on the other end of the telephone.

Now, this telephone conversation happened about the same time that I applied for privileges as a private doctor. I wanted to stay on in your beautiful CNMI; however, I knew that the administrative power bases that existed were unworkable for the quality of care that my OCD needs.

To be continued tomorrow.

5 things to know about deflation

Americans have grown up with fears of inflation—commonly defined as rising prices. But despite the Federal Reserve's oft-stated concern with inflation, we haven't seen much of it in recent years. In fact, the current concern is quite the opposite: deflation.

What is deflation, how does it affect each of us, and what should you—and the government—be doing in case it becomes a reality? Here are five things to know about deflation:

1. Deflation is most often identified as falling prices. Deflation is not the same as falling inflation; instead it is an outright price decline as measured by the Consumer Price Index, or the Producer Price Index of industrial products.

U.S. consumer prices took their biggest drop in nearly a decade in December, falling 0.4 percent. For the 2014 year, the CPI was up 0.8 percent. Similarly, producer prices have fallen in four of the past five months, with a steep 0.3 percent decline in December. But for the past 12 months, the PPI is still up 1.2 percent. In the Eurozone, consumer prices are already in negative territory, reflecting deflation.

2. Deflation is typically accompanied by slowing economic growth. If people and businesses start anticipating future lower prices, then they hold off on buying things or spending to expand their businesses.

3. Deflation is self-reinforcing. As prices come down and the economy slows, business becomes less profitable—often laying off workers. Those unemployed workers don't have a choice. They have little money to spend, so the economy slows even further.

4. Simply "printing" money is not an automatic cure for deflation. Japan has been trying to cure its deflationary economy for more than a decade, most recently by aggressively having its central bank buy Japanese government bonds with newly created money. But once the deflation mentality sets in, it is hard to overcome.

5. The two worst things that could happen in a deflationary economy are tax increases and/or interest rate increases, each of which acts to slow the economy further. Yet suddenly we are hearing talk of both—a tax increase proposal from the president, and plans for interest rate increases from the Fed. Japan learned that

By TERRY SAVAGE

Tribune News Service

*Terry Savage is a Registered Investment Advisor, blogger and the author of four best-selling books, including *The Savage Truth on Money*. Terry responds to question on her blog at TerrySavage.com.*



lesson the hard way.

For consumers, a deflationary economy means hard times for many. Deflation makes debts harder to repay, slows job creation and wage increases, and generally lowers our standard of living. Yes, those with cash can buy bargains, including cheaper gasoline. But in the longer run, that will be small comfort for most consumers if deflation takes hold. And that's The Savage Truth.

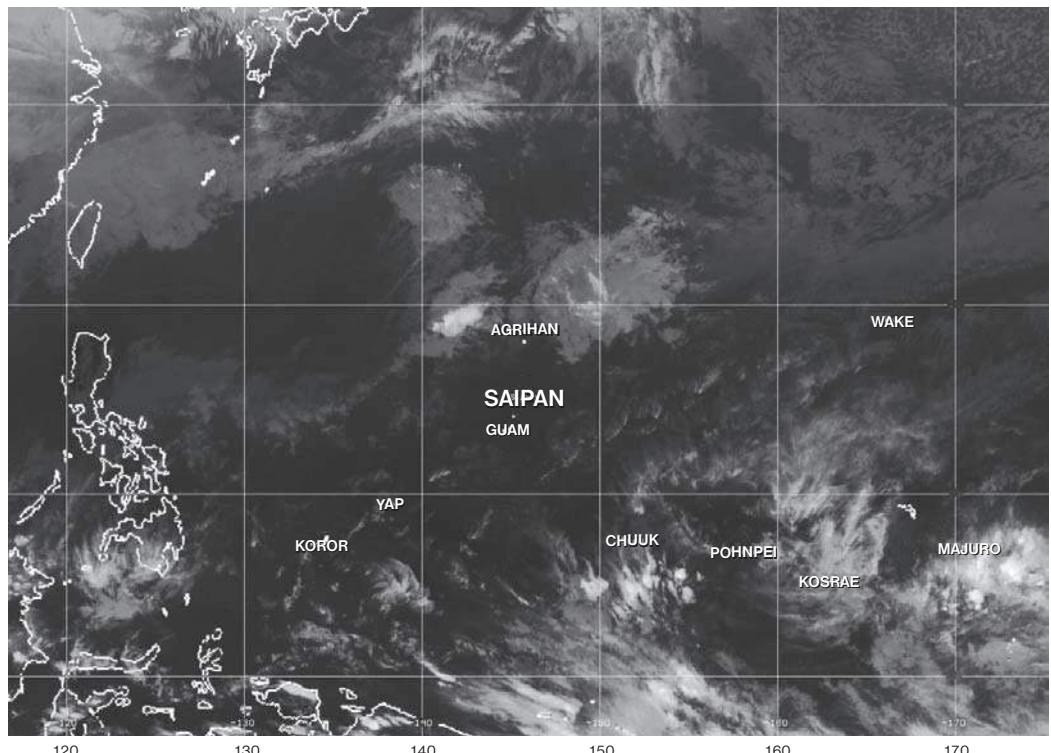
The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

TEMPERATURE
▲ 88° ▼ 76° **▲ 88° ▼ 76°** **▲ 88° ▼ 77°** **▲ 88° ▼ 77°** **▲ 88° ▼ 77°**

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line runs southwestward from across the date line at 24N180E to just north of Wake Island at 20N167E then across the Northern Marianas near Pagan Island at 18N146E to end at about 18N139E. A few thunderstorms are just northeast of Pagan otherwise cloudiness and patchy rain are along and up to 200 miles northwest of the shear line. A tropical disturbance associated with the near-equatorial trough is centered near 2N174E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Kosrae are within 100 miles of a line from 7N162E to 5N166E. Widely scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across the Marshall Islands and near Tarawa are between the equator and a line from 2N166E to 8N173E to 4N180E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Windy	▲ 83 ▼ 79
Majuro	Windy	▲ 84 ▼ 79

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
2:31 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:46 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
1:48 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
9:19 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:14 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:14 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:15 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:15 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:16 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:44 PM	12:49 AM
Thursday	1:33 PM	1:43 AM
Friday	2:22 PM	2:37 AM
Saturday	3:13 PM	3:29 AM
Sunday	4:03 PM	4:19 AM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN		
UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily			UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily		
UA5068 8:00am 8:50am 3			UA5071 6:40am 7:30am 3		
UA5068 8:40am 9:30am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7			UA5071 7:15am 8:05am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7		
UA5039 2:20pm 4:00pm 6, 7 via Rota			UA5039 1:00pm 1:50pm 6, 7		
UA5078 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 5			UA5038 1:10pm 2:40pm 2, 4 via Rota		
UA5038 3:10pm 4:00pm 2, 4			UA5077 1:50pm 2:40pm 1, 5		
UA5040 6:55pm 7:45pm 1, 5			UA5041 5:35pm 6:25pm 1, 5		
UA5078 8:35pm 9:25pm 2, 3, 4, 6, 7			UA5077 7:15pm 8:05pm 2, 3, 4, 6, 7		
UA5044 10:40pm 11:30pm 1, 5			UA5043 9:20pm 10:10pm 1, 5		
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)		
UA5039 2:20pm 2:55pm 6, 7			UA5038 1:00pm 1:35pm 2, 4		
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN		
UA5039 3:25pm 4:00pm 6, 7			UA5038 2:05pm 2:40pm 2, 4		
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)			PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN		
DL287 6:05am 1:10am+1 2, 6 via NRT			DL298 4:35am 3:00pm 3, 7 via NRT		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN		
DL287 6:05am 8:40am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6			DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily		
DL297 4:20pm 7:05pm Daily			DL288 8:55pm 1:25am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN		
OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1			OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily		
OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			7C 3402 10:10am 3:30pm Daily		
OZ6063 3:20am 7:10am 3, 4, 6, 7			OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7		
OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily			OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
7C 3401 4:30pm 8:20pm Daily			OZ6053 8:50pm 2:10am+1 2, 3, 5, 6		
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN		
OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 4, 7			OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 6		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN		
3U8648 6:00am 8:35am 1, 4, 5, 7			3U8647 10:30pm 4:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN		
MU764 1:30am 5:30am 1, 4, 5, 7			MU763 4:30pm 12:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN		
3U8646 4:30am 7:30am 2, 6			3U8645 7:55pm 3:10am+1 1, 5		
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN		
OZ606/					

Business

Thousands of flights canceled as storm descends on the East

By DAVID KOENIG
AP AIRLINES WRITER

Airline travelers are going nowhere fast because of the blizzard bearing down on the Northeast.

By early Monday evening, more than 6,700 U.S. flights through Tuesday had already been scrubbed, according to tracking service FlightAware.com. Most were to or from cities in the storm's path, from Washington through New York to Boston.

And 2,000 flights had been delayed.

Cancellations and delays will spill over into Wednesday, if not longer.

Airlines cancel flights before storms arrive to prevent passengers from driving to the airport and getting stranded in the terminal. Airlines also want to avoid having their planes stuck at snowed-in airports.

Most major U.S. carriers said they would allow passengers ticketed to, from or through the Northeast through Tuesday or Wednesday to change their plans without getting hit by a reservation-changing fee, typically \$200.

But stranded travelers could still have extra costs. When weather causes delays, airlines have no legal obligation to find a hotel room or provide meals for stranded travelers, "although they might do so as a courtesy," said George Hobica, founder of the travel website airfarewatchdog.com. He advised travelers to check the terms of the credit card they used to book the trip—some include coverage for hotels and meals when flights are canceled due to weather.

The National Weather Service predicted that 2 to 3 feet of snow would fall in a 250-mile stretch of the Northeast, including the New York and Boston areas. Philadelphia was bracing for 14 to 18 inches.

The blizzard in the Northeast was having ripple effects for travelers and airports across the country. Despite temperatures in the 70s and just light rain, 60 departures were canceled at Los Angeles International Airport, many of them bound for New York or Boston. San Francisco and Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson airports each had more than 50 departures wiped out.

What some major airlines are reporting:

UNITED AIRLINES

Will not fly Tuesday in New York, Boston or Philadelphia.



AP
A crewmember de-ices a Frontier Airlines plane at LaGuardia Airport in New York, Monday, Jan. 26, 2015. More than 5,000 flights in and out of East Coast airports have been canceled as a major snowstorm packing up to three feet of snow barrels down on the region.

subsidiary and their regional affiliates planned to suspend operations late Monday at LaGuardia, Kennedy, Newark, Boston and Philadelphia and run a "very limited" schedule in the Northeast on Tuesday, said spokeswoman Andrea Huguely.

DELTA AIR LINES

Has already canceled 960 flights scheduled for Tuesday and expects to shut down at Boston's Logan Airport and offer limited flights at LaGuardia and Kennedy airports, said spokesman Morgan Durrant.

Durrant said Delta might cancel some flights Wednesday morning.

SOUTHWEST

Has already canceled nearly 50 Wednesday flights, said spokesman Brad Hawkins.

nouncement sets specific federal goals and timetables. "It's time we put our money where our mouth is," said Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon, the top Democrat on the committee that oversees Medicare.

Still, the outlook for the administration's initiative is unclear. Details of how the payment changes will be implemented remain to be spelled out.

AMERICAN AIRLINES

American, its US Airways

flights at those airports.

Callers were also experiencing long times on hold because

of the heavy volume.

Govt to overhaul Medicare payments to doctors, hospitals

WASHINGTON (AP)—Medicare will change the way it pays hospitals and doctors to reward quality over volume, the Obama administration said Monday, in a shift that officials hope will be a catalyst for the nation's \$3 trillion health care system.

"It is in our common interest to build a health care system that delivers better care, spends health care dollars more

wisely and results in healthier people," said Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell.

The shift won immediate support from insurers and the American Hospital Association. The professional group representing primary care doctors also said it's "on board." But American Medical Association president Robert Wah stopped short of

an endorsement, telling reporters his group is encouraged but wants specifics.

Burwell also announced the formation of the Learning and Action Network, a group she said will bring together a wide range of affected parties to drive change in how America pays for health care. It was unclear Monday whether the group will operate under federal open meetings rules. Its first

meeting is planned for March.

Supporters say the ultimate goal is to promote and reward quality care, not just the sheer volume of services like imaging scans and some elective surgeries.

Medicare and employers were already moving in that direction, but Burwell's an-

IBM 'flatly denies' report of mass layoffs

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Calling it "ridiculous" and "baseless," IBM on Monday dismissed a report that said the technology giant plans to lay off 1 in 4 of its workers, or 100,000 people.

The company "flatly denies" the Forbes report, IBM spokesman Ian Colley said in a phone interview. IBM previously has announced layoffs affecting "several thousand people," only "a small fraction" of the number predicted last week by a blogger on Forbes.com, IBM said in a statement.

Employees may be relieved, but investors appeared to have welcomed the idea of big changes at Big Blue. Between Thursday, when the report was

posted online and Monday morning's denial, IBM shares rose about 4 percent to peak at \$159.46. The stock closed up just 49 cents at \$156.36.

Investors may be looking for IBM to make some significant changes, said Morningstar stock analyst Peter Wahlstrom, although 100,000 job cuts is more than he would expect. These kinds of rumors come up periodically, Wahlstrom said, though they get "snuffed out pretty quickly" if there's no weight to them.

BlackBerry investors got excited earlier this month when Reuters, citing an unnamed source, reported that Samsung was in talks to buy the Cana-

dian smartphone maker. Shares spiked 30 percent but the surge stalled after both companies denied the report. Some analysts said that rumor was plausible because a tie-up could be the boost both companies need.

However, laying off a quarter of IBM's workforce would be "off the charts," said Daniel Morgan, senior portfolio manager at Synovus Trust Company, which holds about 300,000 IBM shares. "I can't see that. But I wouldn't be surprised if we did hear of some more layoffs." IBM has had three big reorganizations in previous decades, he noted. "They do let people go. I think that's why this is gaining some traction."

CHICAGO—United Airlines announced yesterday travel options for customers whose flight plans may be affected by severe winter weather forecast for the Northeastern U.S. region.

Weather conditions will lead to the delay and cancellation of certain Monday evening flights at New York-area airports.

On Tuesday, the airline will cancel all flights at its New York hub at Newark Liberty International Airport as well as flights at LaGuardia and John F. Kennedy airports, Boston and Philadelphia. Operations at other airports throughout the North-

Rebooking options for United customers

CHICAGO—United Airlines announced yesterday travel options for customers whose flight plans may be affected by severe winter weather forecast for the Northeastern U.S. region.

Weather conditions will lead to the delay and cancellation of certain Monday evening flights at New York-area airports.

On Tuesday, the airline will cancel all flights at its New York hub at Newark Liberty International Airport as well as flights at LaGuardia and John F. Kennedy airports, Boston and Philadelphia. Operations at other airports throughout the North-

Options for travelers

For customers ticketed for travel through the region during this period, United is waiving change fees that otherwise may apply. For the fastest service,

» Airline cancels all flights at Newark hub and surrounding airports Tuesday

United urges customers to visit united.com or the United mobile app to:

■ Get complete travel waiver information

■ Check the status of a flight and use the "Send Notification" function to receive alerts

■ Select alternative flights or, in some cases, alternate airports in the event of a flight cancellation. (*United*)



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
17,678.70
+6.10
+ 0.03%

S&P
2,057.09
+5.27
+0.26%

NASDAQ
4,771.76
+13.88
+0.29%

In U.S. dollar terms

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.2603
British Pound	0.6619
Canadian Dollar	1.2484
Chinese Yuan	6.2523
Euro	0.8896
Hong Kong Dollar	7.752
Indian Rupee	61.4355
Indonesian Rupiah	12463.45
Japanese Yen	118.265
Malaysian Ringgit	3.6083
New Zealand Dollar	1.3462
Philippine Peso	44.131
Singapore Dollar	1.3441
South Korean Won	1081.45
Swiss Franc	0.9042
Taiwan Dollar	31.303
Thailand Baht	32.579

Nation

Snowstorm threatens to paralyze the crowded Northeast US

NEW YORK (AP)—Tens of millions of people along the Philadelphia-to-Boston corridor rushed to get home and settle in Monday as a fearsome storm swirled in with the potential for hurricane-force winds and 1 to 3 feet of snow that could paralyze the Northeast for days.

Snow was coating cars and building up on sidewalks and roadways in New York City by evening, and light snow was falling in Boston. Forecasters said the storm would build into a blizzard, and the brunt of it would hit late Monday and into Tuesday.

As the snow got heavier, much of the region rushed to shut down.

More than 7,700 flights in and out of the Northeast were

canceled, and many of them may not take off again until Wednesday. Schools and businesses let out early. Government offices closed. Shoppers stocking up on food jammed supermarkets and elbowed one another for what was left. Broadway stages went dark.

"It's going to be ridiculous out there, frightening," said postal deliveryman Peter Hovey, standing on a snowy commuter train platform in White Plains, New York.

All too aware that big snowstorms can make or break politicians, governors and mayors moved quickly to declare emergencies and order the shutdown of streets and highways to prevent travelers from getting stranded and to enable

plows and emergency vehicles to get through.

"This will most likely be one of the largest blizzards in the history of New York City," New York Mayor Bill de Blasio warned.

He urged New Yorkers to go home and stay there, adding: "People have to make smart decisions from this point on."

Commuters like Sameer

Navi, 27, of Long Island, were following the advice.

Navi, who works for Citigroup in Manhattan, said he takes the Long Island Rail Road every day and left work early Monday after warnings by local officials to get home before the brunt of the storm. "I did leave earlier than usual," he said. "Penn Station less crowded than I thought it would be so

I'm guessing people left earlier or didn't go to work today."

Up to now, this has been a largely snow-free winter in the urban Northeast. But this storm threatened to make up the difference in a single blow.

Boston was expected to get 2 to 3 feet of snow, New York 1 1/2 to 2 feet and Philadelphia more than a foot.

The National Weather Ser-

vice issued a blizzard warning for a 250-mile swath of the region, meaning heavy, blowing snow and potential whiteout conditions. Forecasters warned that the wind could gust to 75 mph or more along the Massachusetts coast and up 50 mph farther inland.

New York City's subways and buses planned to shut down by 11 p.m. In Massachusetts, ferry service to Martha's Vineyard was greatly curtailed and to Nantucket was suspended. Commuter railroads across the Northeast announced plans to stop running overnight, and most flights out of the region's major airports were canceled.

Ex-CIA officer convicted of leaking secrets to reporter

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP)—A former CIA officer was convicted Monday of leaking details of a covert mission to derail Iran's nuclear program in a case that, until the eve of the trial, was as much about the journalist who published the leaks as it was the accused leaker.

The government gave up on its effort to force New York Times reporter James Risen to reveal his sources—and ultimately didn't need him to win a conviction.

Jurors convicted Jeffrey Sterling, 47, of O'Fallon, Missouri, of all nine counts he faced in federal court.

At issue in the two-week trial: Who told Risen about the mission, one that former national security adviser Condoleezza Rice testified was among the government's most closely held secrets during her tenure as well as one of its best chances to derail Iran's nuclear-weapons ambitions?

The case was delayed for years as prosecutors fought to force Risen to divulge his sources. Risen eventually lost his legal battle to quash a government subpoena, though prosecutors ultimately decided not to call him to testify once it became clear he would not reveal those sources even if jailed for contempt of court and free-press advocates lobbied on Risen's behalf.

Prosecutors had acknowledged a lack of direct evidence against Sterling but said the circumstantial evidence against him was overwhelming. Defense lawyers had said the evidence showed that Capitol Hill staffers who had been briefed on the classified operation were more likely the source of the leak.



Annie Mendez waits for a bus, Monday, Jan. 26, 2015, in the Brooklyn borough of New York. Cities from Boston to New York and Philadelphia began shutting down Monday against a monster storm that could unload up to 3 feet of snow on a region of more than 35 million people.

ACROSS THE NATION

Ex-Army prosecutor found guilty of rape at court-martial

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (AP)—A former U.S. Army prosecutor who oversaw sexual-assault cases has been found guilty on rape charges following a six-day court-martial at Fort Bragg, military officials said Monday. Maj. Erik J. Burris was found guilty on two charges of rape, a charge of forcible sodomy, four charges of assault and a charge of disobeying an order, the Army said in a five-sentence statement. Burris was sentenced to 20 years in prison, dismissed from the service, and ordered to forfeit all pay, the statement

said. Burris, whose age was not available, had pleaded not guilty to the charges. He could not be reached for comment and the name of the lawyer representing him was not available.

Closing arguments begin in ex-Vandy players' rape trial

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The rape trial of two former Vanderbilt football players began wrapping up Monday with a prosecutor telling jurors that video evidence and photographs taken of the crime would be enough to convict them on most of the charges. Beyond the video footage and photographs, testimony from several athletes

How much is too much?

A new poll found that people's views on how much snow it takes to close schools varies by region.

How much snow should it take to close schools?

Northeast	6 inches
Midwest	6 inches
South	3 inches
West	5 inches

Source: YouGov

Graphic: Tribune News Service

US announces charges in New York Russian spy ring case

NEW YORK (AP)—Three Russian citizens were charged Monday in connection with a Cold War-style Russian spy ring that spoke in code, passed messages concealed in bags and magazines, and tried to recruit people with ties to an unnamed New York City university, authorities said.

The defendants were directed by Russian authorities to gather sensitive economic intelligence on potential U.S. sanctions against Russian banks and efforts here to develop alternative energy resources, according to a complaint filed in federal court in Manhattan.

Prosecutors say one defendant, Yevgeny Buryakov, posed as an employee in the Manhattan branch of a Russian bank. He was arrested on Monday in the Bronx, where he lived with his Russian wife and two children.

At an initial court appearance, Assistant U.S. Attorney Adam Fee portrayed Buryakov as a professional spy skilled at duplicity.

"His life here, your honor, really is a deception," the prosecutor said.

Buryakov, 39, arrived in the United States in 2010 and had a work visa. His lawyer, Sabrina Shroff, lost an argument for bail after a magistrate judge

Asia

Toll of Filipino commandos killed in rebel clash rises to 43

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—At least 43 Philippine police commandos were killed in a fierce battle with Muslim guerrillas after launching an assault in which they may have killed one of Southeast Asia's most-wanted terrorists, officials said Monday.

The clash Sunday—the biggest single-day combat loss for the government in recent memory—may have resulted from the commandos' failure to follow the terms of a cease-fire with the guerrillas by notifying them of their presence in the area, a rebel leader said.

Interior Secretary Mar Roxas described the clash as a “misencounter.”

A police Special Action Force member remained missing while 11 others were wounded in the fighting in the remote village of Tukalanipao in Maguindanao province, officials said. Seven of the dead were officers.

Roxas called the commandos “fallen heroes” who sacrificed their lives to try to capture Malaysian bombing suspect Zulkifli bin Hir, or Marwan. The top terror suspect may have been killed by the commandos and efforts were underway to confirm that suspicion, he said.

Another top terror suspect, Filipino bomb-maker Abdul Basit Usman, managed to escape, according to Roxas, who flew to the south with the defense secretary and military and police chiefs following the police loss.

The United States has offered



Members of the Philippine National Police Special Action Forces load bodies of police commandos into vehicles in Maguindanao, Philippines, Monday, Jan. 26, 2015. AP

up to \$5 million for Marwan's capture and \$1 million for Usman. Both have been blamed by U.S. and Philippine authorities for deadly bomb attacks and providing bomb-making training to al-Qaida-linked militants in the country's south.

“There is sadness and bitterness because there are more than 40 bodies here,” Roxas said at a news conference, where he promised to provide help to the

slain commandos' families.

After attacking Marwan, the police commandos came under fire from hard-line Muslim insurgents in the village, and some strayed elsewhere and

became entangled in a firefight with insurgents belonging to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the main Muslim rebel group, national police Deputy Director General Leonardo

Espina said.

The Moro rebels signed a peace deal with the government last March that aims to establish a more powerful and better-funded autonomous region

Japan special envoy hopeful about release of hostage, pilot

TOKYO (AP)—A Japanese envoy in Jordan expressed hope that both a Japanese hostage and a Jordanian pilot held by Islamic militants will return home “with a smile on their faces,” as criticisms mounted Tuesday over the government's handling of the crisis.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yasuhide Nakayama was determined, saying he believed there were “firm ties” between Japan and Jordan. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe assigned Nakayama, a lawmaker, to coordinate efforts in Amman to save two Japanese hostages of the Islamic State group.

“I hope we can all firmly work hard and join hands to cooperate, and for the two countries (Japan and Jordan) to cooperate, in order for us to see the day when the Jordanian pilot and our Japanese national Mr. Goto, can both safely return to their own countries with a smile on their faces,” he told reporters late Monday night after another day of crisis talks in the Jordanian capital.

It was the first time a Japanese official mentioned Jordanian pilot 1st Lt. Mu'ath al-Kaseasbeh, who has been held by the extremist Islamic State group after crashing in December. It wasn't clear when the pilot possible release had entered the picture.

Freelance journalist Kenji Goto was seized in late October in Syria, apparently while trying

to rescue another hostage, 42-year-old Haruna Yukawa, who was captured by the militants last summer.

Over the weekend, an unverified video emerged online showing a still photo of Goto, 47, holding what appears to be a

China's shadow looms large over Obama visit to India

NEW DELHI (AP)—As President Barack Obama and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met in New Delhi this week, the shadow of a third player hung over the talks: neighboring China, which has complicated relationships with both the United States and India.

To Obama, forging deeper ties with India fits in neatly with his efforts to deepen U.S. influence in countries on China's doorstep. And as the world's largest democracy, India is a particularly attractive partner to the U.S. as it seeks to cultivate a robust regional counterbalance to communist China.

India and China are ostensibly allies, and Modi warmly welcomed Chinese President Xi Jinping to New Delhi last year. But India is also worried about China's maneuvering in the region—particularly in the Indian Ocean and at the Himalayan border between the two countries—and sees fostering improved relations with the U.S. as key to bolstering its own

photo of the body of Yukawa. It included a recording of a voice claiming to be Goto, saying his captors wanted the release of Sajida al-Rashawi, an Iraqi woman sentenced to death in Jordan for involvement in a suicide bombing that killed 60 people.

The message retracted a demand for payment of \$200 million in ransom for the two Japanese, made in an earlier online message, and said Yukawa had been killed. It threatened to kill Goto unless al-Rashawi was released.

Commentary in China's government-controlled media is frequently used as a means of criticizing or casting doubt on the diplomatic moves of other countries.

Obama's trip didn't go unnoticed in China, where foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said U.S.-India relations “could promote mutual trust and cooperation in the region.” But the state-run news agency Xinhua dismissed Obama's visit as “more symbolic than pragmatic, given the long-standing division between the two giants, which may be as huge as the distance between them.”

Commentary in China's government-controlled media is frequently used as a means of criticizing or casting doubt on the diplomatic moves of other countries.

When asked about the Chinese take, Obama's deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes said, “It's notable that they should feel like they have to go out of their way to comment on this visit.”

for minority Muslims in the south and end a decades-long rebellion. The conflict has left 150,000 people dead and helped stunt development in the country's poorest regions.

Under the terms of a ceasefire, government forces are required to coordinate their anti-terror assaults and other law enforcement operations with the Moro rebels to prevent accidental fighting. But the police commandos did not notify the rebels before they entered the Muslim rebel stronghold in the dark, Moro rebel leader Mohagher Iqbal said.

“If somebody barges into your house, what will you do?” Iqbal said by telephone.

He said the 11,000-strong Moro group would file a protest over the action of the police commandos, adding that he hoped the incident would not undermine the peace process, a view shared by Philippine officials.

The mayor of the township around the village where the clash occurred, Tahirudin Benzar Ampatuan, said by telephone that village leaders described the battle scene as “gruesome” and said many of the dead were stripped of their uniforms and other belongings, including their assault firearms.

China's shadow looms large over Obama visit to India

The message retracted a demand for payment of \$200 million in ransom for the two Japanese, made in an earlier online message, and said Yukawa had been killed. It threatened to kill Goto unless al-Rashawi was released.

The message retracted a demand for payment of \$200 million in ransom for the two Japanese, made in an earlier online message, and said Yukawa had been killed. It threatened to kill Goto unless al-Rashawi was released.

The message retracted a demand for payment of \$200 million in ransom for the two Japanese, made in an earlier online message, and said Yukawa had been killed. It threatened to kill Goto unless al-Rashawi was released.

The message retracted a demand for payment of \$200 million in ransom for the two Japanese, made in an earlier online message, and said Yukawa had been killed. It threatened to kill Goto unless al-Rashawi was released.

The message retracted a demand for payment of \$200 million in ransom for the two Japanese, made in an earlier online message, and said Yukawa had been killed. It threatened to kill Goto unless al-Rashawi was released.

The message retracted a demand for payment of \$200 million in ransom for the two Japanese, made in an earlier online message, and said Yukawa had been killed. It threatened to kill Goto unless al-Rashawi was released.

The message retracted a demand for payment of \$200 million in ransom for the two Japanese, made in an earlier online message, and said Yukawa had been killed. It threatened to kill Goto unless al-Rashawi was released.

The message retracted a demand for payment of \$200 million in ransom for the two Japanese, made in an earlier online message, and said Yukawa had been killed. It threatened to kill Goto unless al-Rashawi was released.

The message retracted a demand for payment of \$200 million in ransom for the two Japanese, made in an earlier online message, and said Yukawa had been killed. It threatened to kill Goto unless al-Rashawi was released.

The message retracted a demand for payment of \$200 million in ransom for the two Japanese, made in an earlier online message, and said Yukawa had been killed. It threatened to kill Goto unless al-Rashawi was released.

The message retracted a demand for payment of \$200 million in ransom for the two Japanese, made in an earlier online message, and said Yukawa had been killed. It threatened to kill Goto unless al-Rashawi was released.

World

Kurds celebrate ousting Islamic State fighters from Kobani

By ZEINA KARAM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIRUT (AP)—Jubilant Kurdish fighters ousted Islamic State militants from the key Syrian border town of Kobani on Monday after a four-month battle—a significant victory for both the Kurds and the U.S.-led coalition.

The Kurds raised their flag on a hill that once flew the Islamic State group's black banner. On Kobani's war-ravaged streets, gunmen fired in the air in celebration, male and female fighters embraced, and troops danced in their baggy uniforms.

The failure to capture Kobani was a major blow to the extremists whose hopes for an easy victory dissolved into a costly siege under withering airstrikes by coalition forces and an assault by the Kurdish militia.

For the U.S. and its partners, Kobani became a strategic prize, especially after they increased the number of airstrikes against IS fighters there in October.

"Daesh gambled on Kobani and lost," said senior Kurdish official Idriss Nassan, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

"Their defenses have collapsed and its fighters have fled," he told The Associated



This Nov. 20, 2014 file photo shows an area controlled by the Islamic State group, past the Qada Azadi roundabout, foreground, in Kobani, Syria. AP

Press from Turkey, adding that he would return to Kobani on Tuesday.

Kobani-based journalist Farshad Shami said the few civilians who remained had joined in the celebration. Most of the town of about 60,000 people had fled to Turkey to escape the fighting.

Several U.S. officials said

they couldn't confirm that Kurdish fighters have gained full control of Kobani, but added that they have no reason to disbelieve the claims.

A senior U.S. official said the Kurds controlled most of the town and have consolidated control particularly in the central and southern areas. The official said Islamic State militants

still have a considerable presence in outlying areas around Kobani and are still putting up stiff resistance to the Kurds in those pockets outside it.

U.S. Central Command estimates that 90 percent of Kobani is now controlled by Kurdish forces.

Kurdish officials and activists said Kobani was entirely

in Kurdish hands, with only sporadic fighting on the eastern outer edges where the militants retained some footholds.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said fighters of the main Kurdish militia known as the People's Protection Units, or YPG, where searching houses in the eastern suburbs of the town and dismantling and det-



inating bombs and booby-traps left behind.

Capturing Kobani would have given the IS militants control of a border crossing with Turkey and open direct lines for their positions along the frontier. Now, it is a grave psychological loss for the extremist group, which has been dealt a series of military setbacks in both Syria and Iraq, particularly at the hands of the Kurds.

Last month, Kurdish fighters in Iraq retook the strategic town of Sinjar that had been home to many of Iraq's minority Yazidis.

The focus is now expected to shift to several hundred villages around Kobani still held by the militants. Kurdish activists said they expected the fight for those to be easier than for the town itself.

Greece's first radical left prime minister sworn in

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Tieless and eschewing the traditional religious swearing-in ceremony, but with a surprise coalition deal in the bag and a sanguine international reception, radical left leader Alexis Tsipras took over Monday as austerity-wracked Greece's new prime minister.

Security officials said the Mubarak sons walked free from Torah Prison in a southern Cairo suburb shortly after daybreak and headed to their homes in the capital's upscale Heliopolis suburb. Interior Minister Mohammed Ibrahim, who is in charge of police and prisons, confirmed their release.

Hours earlier, the 40-year-old's Syriza party trounced the outgoing, conservative government in Sunday's national elections, on a platform of easing social pain and securing massive debt forgiveness.

Although Syriza fell tantalizingly short of a governing majority in the 300-seat parliament, Tsipras moved quickly Monday to secure the support of 13 lawmakers from the small, right-wing populist Independent Greeks party, raising his total to 162.

"We have the required majority," Tsipras told Greek President Karolos Papoulias, shortly before being sworn in as prime minister, the youngest Greece has seen in 150 years and the first incumbent to take a secular oath rather than the religious one customarily administered by a Greek Orthodox official.

Initial reactions from inter-

national markets and officials from Greece's bailout creditors were markedly unflustered.

"We stand ready to continue supporting Greece, and look forward to discussions with the new government," International Monetary Fund director Christine Lagarde said.

Jeroen Dijsselbloem, the Dutchman who chairs eurozone finance ministers' meetings, said that even though "there is very little support for debt write-offs," there is room to "come back to debt sustainability issues" in the future—if necessary.

His views were echoed by the prime minister of Finland, a country that has long been among the most unmovable on austerity issues. Alexander Stubb said that even if he opposes forgiving Greece's debts outright, he would be prepared to discuss extending loan repayments.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki congratulated Syriza and Tsipras, and said the U.S. looked forward to working with the new government on "domestic reforms and international efforts to foster Greece's economic recovery."

Egypt: Release of Mubarak's sons caps weekend of violence

CAIRO (AP)—In a sign of confidence by a tough Egyptian government, Hosni Mubarak's two sons were freed Monday after almost four years in prison, following a weekend marked by a spate of protester killings by an increasingly heavy-handed police force.

Criticism is mounting over the shooting death of a young mother, which was captured on video and has sparked unflattering comparisons between President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi and Mubarak, the authoritarian ruler ousted by a popular uprising in 2011.

Activists warned that the death of 32-year-old Shaimaa el-Sabbagh during a peace-

ful protest on the eve of the fourth anniversary of the uprising could serve as a rallying symbol, just as the 2010 beating death of a young businessman by police in the Mediterranean port of Alexandria is credited with inspiring the anti-Mubarak revolution in January 2011. Demonstrations to protest police brutality in the wake of the killing were called for later in the week.

"On the revolution's fourth anniversary, authorities release Gamal and Alaa, the sons of the most corrupt, and kill Shaimaa el-Sabbagh, the pure daughter of the revolution," rights activist Zizo Fahmy wrote on his

Twitter account.

The Mubarak brothers—wealthy businessman Alaa and Mubarak's one-time heir apparent Gamal—are viewed by many Egyptians as key pillars of an autocratic and corrupt administration that struck an alliance with mega-wealthy businessmen at the expense of the nation's poor and disadvantaged. Although father and son denied any succession maneuverings, that perception, along with corruption, police brutality and poverty, were among the main engines of the 2011 uprising.

Their release has fueled the view among activists behind the uprising that the Mubarak

regime has been making a comeback since el-Sissi, a general-turned-politician, took office in June.

"There is no fight anymore because the revolution has been completely floored. It has hit the ground," said Wael Es-kandar, an activist and blogger. "There is no room for dissent."

Security officials said the Mubarak sons walked free from Torah Prison in a southern Cairo suburb shortly after daybreak and headed to their homes in the capital's upscale Heliopolis suburb. Interior Minister Mohammed Ibrahim, who is in charge of police and prisons, confirmed their release.

Cuban declaration in December.

The United States and Cuba held high-level talks last week in Havana. The latest statement from Fidel was dated Jan. 26.

Cuba's president "has taken the pertinent steps in accordance with his prerogatives and the powers given to him by the National Assembly the Communist Party of Cuba," Castro said in the statement.

His silence had led to speculation over his opinion of his brother's rapprochement with the United States.

Fidel Castro writes statement on shift in Cuba-US relations

HAVANA, Cuba (AP)—Former Cuban leader Fidel Castro ended his long silence over his country's decision to restore diplomatic ties with the United States, writing that he backs the negotiations even though he distrusts politics in Washington.

The comments were the first by the 88-year-old revolutionary leader on the talks with the U.S. since the historic Dec. 17 declaration that the countries would move to restore ties broken more than a half century ago.

"I don't trust the policy of the United States, nor have I exchanged a word with them, but this does not mean I reject a pacific solution to the conflicts," he wrote in a letter to a student federation read at the University of Havana. It also appeared in Communist Party newspaper Granma.

"We will always defend cooperation and friendship with all the people of the world, including with our political adversaries," he wrote.

Two weeks ago, Fidel Cas-

tro sent a letter to soccer legend Diego Maradona to quash rumors of his death. At the time, it was the first reported word from Castro in nearly three months. The letter was read on Venezuela state television network Telesur.

A serious illness forced Castro to step down from duties as president, handing over leadership to his younger brother Raul.

The speculation about Fidel Castro's health had been prompted in part by his failure to comment on the historic U.S.-

Focus

Dwindling group of survivors to mark Auschwitz 70 years on

By VANESSA GERA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

OSWIECIM, Poland (AP)—A decade ago, 1,500 Holocaust survivors traveled to Auschwitz to mark the 60th anniversary of the death camp's liberation. On Tuesday, for the 70th anniversary, organizers are expecting 300, the youngest in their 70s.

"In 10 years there might be just one," said Zygmunt Shipper, an 85-year-old survivor who will attend the event in southern Poland to pay homage to the millions killed by the Third Reich. In recent years, Shipper has been traveling around Britain to share his story with school groups, hoping to reach as many people as he can while he has the strength.

"The children cry, and I tell them to talk to their parents and brothers and sisters and ask them 'why do we do it and why do we hate?'" he said. "We mustn't forget what happened."

But as the world moves inevitably closer to a post-survivor era, some Jewish leaders fear that people are already starting to forget. And they warn that the anti-Semitic hatred and violence that are on the rise, particularly in Europe, could partly be linked to fading memories of the Holocaust.



Ronald Lauder, president of the World Jewish Congress, says that the recent massacres in Paris, which targeted Jews and newspaper satirists, are proof of growing hatred and extrem-

ism. It's a message he plans to stress in a speech Tuesday at the former site of Auschwitz-Birkenau, where the Nazis killed more than 1.1 million people, most of them Jews.

"Shortly after World War II, after we saw the reality of Auschwitz and the other death camps, no normal person wanted to be associated with the anti-Semitism of the Na-

zis," Lauder said. "But, as the Holocaust grows more distant and survivors disappear, extremists grow more bold in targeting Jews. Stoked by a false narrative that blames Israel for a litany of the world's problems, anti-Semitism is resurgent and deadly."

Distance from the Holocaust is only one factor behind the rising anti-Semitism, and experts also fault the ease with which hateful propaganda is spread on the Internet and the growing presence of radical Islam in Europe. In Hungary and Greece, far-right movements have grown stronger amid economic decline.

"Fading memories are one reason for the rise in anti-Semitism, but anti-Semitism was always there," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the U.S.-based Anti-Defamation League and a survivor himself. "We have hidden it, made it unacceptable, made it un-PC, but we never really eliminated it. The consciousness of what anti-Semitism was, of Auschwitz, was prevalent; it kept the lid on it. It wasn't acceptable to be anti-Semitic."

Despite the troubling trend, there are also reasons for hope. Mainstream society has become more vigilant, and Holocaust educators say that interest in the Holocaust keeps growing. Also, anti-Semitism remains a huge taboo for most politicians and mainstream societies in the West. Political opposition to anti-Semitism will be underlined by the presence Tuesday of the presidents of Germany, France and Po-

A picture taken just after the liberation by the Soviet army in January 1945, shows a group of children wearing concentration camp uniforms behind barbed wire fencing in the Auschwitz Nazi concentration camp. AP

land, along with many other European leaders and royalty.

In Germany, which has stressed Holocaust education for years, leaders, media and most citizens show little tolerance for anti-Semitism. A recent example came just days ago, when a photo surfaced of an anti-immigrant leader, Lutz Bachmann, sporting an Adolf Hitler moustache and his hair combed over like the Fuehrer. Comments also emerged in which he called refugees "cattle" and "filthy."

Though he called the photo a joke, German leaders and the media found nothing funny. Their condemnation was swift and resolute, and Bachmann immediately resigned from his role as a head of the anti-immigrant group he helped found, PEGIDA.

But condemnation of anti-Semitism hasn't stopped it from growing in Muslim immigrant communities in Germany. Since the Gaza war last summer, there has been an increase in attacks against Israelis, synagogues and Jewish institutions. In Paris last summer anti-Israel protests turned violent, and anti-Jewish fury was on display in Belgium and Italy.

"Everybody is afraid, everybody," said Levi Salomon, the spokesman for the Berlin Jewish Forum for Democracy and against Anti-Semitism which tracks anti-Semitic crimes and helps victims. "In Germany it is not as extreme as in other countries. We haven't had any murder cases yet, but still people are worried."

In recent years there have also been deadly attacks on Jews. Last May a shooting killed three people at the Jewish Museum in Brussels and in 2012 a rabbi and three children were murdered in the French city of Toulouse.

One troubling question: Could anti-Semitism grow even more in coming years, when school children will no longer be able to have the life-altering experience of learning about the Holocaust directly from someone who was ripped away from a mother, who endured indescribable hunger, cold and torture, who witnessed chimneys spew out the smoke of burning bodies?

Holocaust educators are struggling to film as many survivor testimonies for future generations as possible, but there is no replacing the emotional impact of hearing directly from a survivor.

Spielberg warns of growing anti-Semitism at Holocaust event

KRAKOW, Poland (AP)—Film director Steven Spielberg told a group of Holocaust survivors on Monday that Jews are again facing the "perennial demons of intolerance" from anti-Semites who are provoking hate crimes and trying to strip survivors of their identity.

His warning came in a speech to dozens of Auschwitz survivors the evening before official commemorations marking the 70th anniversary of the Soviet army's liberation of the death camp in Nazi-occupied Poland.

About 300 survivors will gather with leaders from around the world Tuesday to remember the 1.1 million people killed at Auschwitz-Birkenau and the millions of others killed in the Holocaust. Leaders expected include the presidents of Germany and Austria, while the United States is sending a delegation led by Treasury Secretary Jack Lew, who is an Orthodox Jew. Lew's family left Poland before World War II.

Spielberg, the Oscar-winning director of the 1993 Holocaust film "Schindler's List," was introduced by an 81-year-old survivor, Paula Lebovics, who praised him as "a man who has given us a voice in history."

In a short speech, Spielberg spoke of how his own Jewish identity evolved, first as a boy learning to read numbers



Spielberg

from the numbers tattooed on the arms of survivors, and as an adult when he filmed "Schindler's List" in Krakow.

But he warned of "anti-Semites, radical extremists, and religious fanatics" who are again provoking hate crimes—a warning that comes after radical Islamists massacred Jews at a kosher supermarket earlier this month in Paris.

Spielberg also noted that there are now Facebook pages that identify Jews and their geographic locations with the intention to attack them, and a growing effort to banish Jews from Europe.

"These people ... want to all over again strip you of your past, of your story and of your identity," he told them. He stressed the importance of countering that hatred with education and preserving Auschwitz and other historical sites.

Earlier in the day some of the survivors traveled an hour and a half by bus from Krakow to Oswiecim, the town where the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum is located. There they prayed for their murdered loved ones amid the barracks and barbed wire of the former Nazi death camp, with one survivor crying out in a pained

voice: "I don't want to come here anymore!"

Rose Schindler, 85, who was one of 12 survivors from a family of more than 300 people, returned once 20 years ago but said she wanted a final visit to

mourn her parents and four siblings who were killed in the Holocaust. She was separated from them upon arrival in Auschwitz with no time to say goodbye and survived because she was selected to do slave labor.

"I have no graves for my mother and sisters and brother, my father. So this somehow is a way to say goodbye," Schindler said.

Together, several of the survivors said kaddish, or the Jewish prayer for the dead, next to the infamous "Arbeit Macht Frei" sign that hangs above the entrance to the camp. That translates into "work makes you free," a cynical statement given that the Nazis killed most of their prisoners.

Marcel Tuchman, a 93-year-old survivor of Auschwitz and three other Nazi camps, reflected on the unspeakable suffering of the Jews, Gypsies, homosexuals and others who were tortured and executed at Auschwitz, many in gas chambers.

"The overwhelming statistics are not the stories to be told," Tuchman said. "The stories could only be told by the victims. Unfortunately their voices were silenced by gas and the crematoria, so we are here, the survivors, to speak for them and honor the memory of their suffering."

Mordechai Ronen, an 82-year-old survivor from Hungary who now lives in Canada, made the trip very reluctantly and said he wasn't sure he had the strength to handle it emotionally. After the survivors prayed in Hebrew he cried out, "I don't want to come here anymore!"

The concentration camp was liberated by the Soviet army on Jan. 27, 1945, in the last months of the war. The Soviet advance from the east forced the Nazis to retreat from occupied eastern Europe to Germany and they took many of their prisoners to kill along the way. However, they left several thousand behind, among them children and prisoners close to death.

The World Jewish Congress and the USC Shoah Foundation helped bring the survivors to Auschwitz for the anniversary. Inspired by making "Schindler's List," Spielberg founded the Shoah Foundation, which has collected video testimony from more than 53,000 Holocaust survivors.

Good Housekeeping

Locksmiths say deadbolt the key to home security

By MIKE LAFOLLETTE

ANGIE'S LIST

There are many things you can do to boost home security, such as adding an alarm system or getting a guard dog, but unless you have working deadbolt locks and actually use them, your home isn't secure, locksmiths say.

Lance Cronk, owner of highly rated (on Angie's List) Metro Lock Service in Portland, Ore., says intruders use force to gain entry in a majority of home burglaries. "Because the locks or deadbolts are not functioning properly or they are inadequate, the intruder is able to kick the door in," he says.

A deadbolt is a type of lock with a steel bolt that extends into the door jamb and strike plate of a door frame. The most common type is the single-cylinder deadbolt, operated by a twist knob on the inside of the door and a key on the outside. Some people prefer the double-cylinder deadbolt, which doesn't have a twist knob and requires a key for operation both inside and outside the home.

Many burglaries are forced-entry

According to the latest FBI statistics, there were 1.9 million burglaries in the United States in 2013, resulting in \$4.5 billion in property loss. Out of all burglaries, 59 percent were the result of forced entry. Residential burglaries accounted for 74 percent of all burglaries, and a majority occurred during the daytime.

"You should definitely have a deadbolt, and it needs to be a quality one with a hardened steel bolt," says Eric Ball, locksmith at highly rated Broad Ripple Lock in Indianapolis.

For the deadbolt to function properly, the bolt must extend fully into the hole on the door jamb. The hole should be reinforced with a metal strike plate. If the bolt doesn't extend all the way into the hole or if a strike plate isn't used, the lock and door frame can be compromised.

"Typically when someone kicks in a door, it's not the door that breaks, it's the door frame," Ball says. "You should use 3-inch screws to reinforce the strike plate into the studs of the frame of the house."

Even if you have a deadbolt lock on your door, it won't make a difference if it's not used regularly. Cronk says many homeowners find it easier to lock the doorknob and often neglect to

lock the deadbolt.

Ball agrees. "Doorknobs are for convenience, deadbolts are for security," he says.

Single- and double-cylinder issues

Homeowners should take note that a single-cylinder deadbolt can be breached if an entry door has glass panels, because a burglar can break the glass and reach inside to unlatch the deadbolt. A double-cylinder deadbolt will protect against this, and Ball recommends homeowners keep a key close by but out of arm's reach. However, the double-cylinder deadbolt can be problematic in the event of a house fire because a key is required to unlock the door from the inside.

Another solution may simply be to replace the door itself. Many exterior doors are designed with security in mind, using reinforced glass or small windows far enough away from the lock to prevent a burglar from reaching in.

For additional security, Cronk says, avoid hiding a spare key under the doormat. "Get a secure lockbox for your Hide-a-Key," he says. He also recommends that new homeowners have their locks changed, because there is no way to know who previously had keys to the home.



BRANDON SMITH/TNS

Consider a double-cylinder deadbolt lock if your door has a lot of windows. Otherwise, a burglar can break the glass and reach inside to unlatch the deadbolt.

THIS IS A HAMMER

No stud finder? No problem

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA

(C) 2015 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: I'm planning to hang some pictures around my new apartment, but a friend told me I need to be sure to locate the studs in the wall first. I know these are the vertical boards behind the wall, but I'm not sure how to find them. Do I need to buy some kind of special equipment?—Jamie, via e-mail

A: You could buy an electronic stud finder at your nearest home-improvement store, but if you don't want to shell out \$20 or more for a one-time picture hanging project, you can learn to locate wall studs without help. And if you still can't lo-

cate the studs, or just want the extra assurance, you can go ahead and buy a stud finder (preferably one that also has a built-in laser level, which is very convenient).

Studs are usually spaced about 16 inches apart. This varies, however. Above doors and windows, studs may be doubled or tripled up to support a heavier load. But along a wall, they're pretty evenly spaced apart. That's helpful to know once you've located a stud, because you have an idea how much space is open on either side.

Studs are always located in specific areas: in each corner of a room, on either side of the window frame, and on either side of the doorframe. They also are typically next to light switches

and outlets (a couple inches to the left or right) because electricians often attach the fixture's box to the side of a stud. I say "often" and "typically," because every once in awhile an outlet is just set into the drywall.

You can combine a couple of low-tech methods to locate the rough position of wall studs. The first is to simply tap the wall and listen. First tap on the location of a known stud (the corner, for example). Then tap the wall a few inches to the right or left. You should hear a hollow sound away from the stud. The area of the wall that has a stud should sound solid.

The second method is to measure 16 inches from the known stud. Tap the wall at the end of the tape; if it sounds solid rather than hollow, you know you're at another stud.

Will wallpaper trend stick this time?



TNS

Textured wallpaper like the one in this Chicago living room can be subtle but still add a unique quality. Photo courtesy Angie's List member Laura D.

By COURTNEY ST. ONGE

ANGIE'S LIST

Denise Jordan has seen wallpaper come and seen it go.

She and her husband, owners of Jordan Wallcoverings based in Gastonia, N.C. and highly rated on Angie's List, have made a living covering walls in the Charlotte area and beyond for more than 30 years.

For decades, the wall-coverings business was dominated by wallpaper, adding accents and personality to rooms, and making cleanup in bathrooms and kitchens an easier task. Then it fell off, as people chose to remove wallpaper and paint rooms.

Interest in putting up wallpaper has ebbed and flowed over the years, but right now, it seems to be flowing again, Jordan says.

Wallpaper trends

Whether it's a matter of everything that goes around comes

around, or the greater versatility offered by digital printing—you can now blow up a photo or image to the size of the wall—wallpaper specialists say the look is returning, at least for some rooms and home styles.

World map wall paper

In particular, Jordan has spotted these recent wallpaper trends:

Textures: More homeowners are showing interest in wallpaper with a textured finish such as metallic foil, shiny or wall coverings that simulate wood paneling or grasscloth.

Kitchens and bathrooms: Wallpaper tends to hold up best in kitchens and bathrooms, Jordan says. The pattern and texture can offer the small space a special style—and depending on the type of covering chosen, a wipeable finish.

Accents: Instead of papering an entire room, the trend seems to be toward accent walls or even a traditional border style at the top of the wall.

One holdup in the wallpaper comeback? Expense.

"It really has gone up in

COMFORT FOOD

Super Bowl Soup

By HEALTHY EXCHANGES

(C) 2015 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

price," Jordan says, ranging anywhere from \$14 to \$45 a yard in this area. That's much pricier than a can of quality interior paint that can cover an entire room.

Before you start

If wallpaper is hung and installed correctly, it can look fresh for a decade or more. To do this right, you might want to hire someone who specializes in hanging wallpaper instead of opting for DIY wallpaper installation.

A key to hanging it well is sizing the wall. To do this, Jordan applies a substance that creates a slippery surface on the wall that helps the wallpaper grip the wall better, and this makes it easier to peel off wallpaper later when the trend ebbs again.

If that step is done correctly, the paper will stick just right and it will come down when you want it to, she says.

"Some people love it and some people hate it," Jordan says of wallpaper. "I guess that's the case with anything, though."

flakes

- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 to 3 drops hot sauce

1. In a large saucepan, combine potatoes, carrots, green beans, onion and water. Bring mixture to a boil. Lower heat, cover and simmer for 30 minutes or until vegetables are tender.

2. Stir in Cheddar cheese, milk, parsley flakes, black pepper and hot sauce. Continue cooking until cheese melts, stirring often. Serves 4 (1 1/2 cups each).

■ Each serving equals: 175 calories, 3g fat, 15g protein, 22g carb., 409mg sodium, 3g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 2 Vegetable, 1 1/2 Meat, 1 Starch.

Because you're hanging pictures, and I'm assuming relatively light ones, it's more important for you to locate the spaces between the studs, rather than the precise width and location of each stud. (If you are hanging really large, heavy frames, the studs play a more important role.)

Once you've got a general location for the studs, you can measure and mark the spots where you want to hang pictures.

HOME TIP: Trying to arrange several pictures on a single wall? Trace the outline of each frame onto blank paper, cut them out, and arrange the outlines on the wall to figure out the layout ahead of time.

Send your home tips and questions to ask@thisishammer.com.

In Celebration of his new life

†Eulogio Manalo King

“Eloy”

Born to life on January 23, 1963 and was called to Eternal rest on January 14, 2015

In His new life, He now joins His:

Father: †Esteban C. Borja
Mother: †Maria Manalo King
Parents-In-Law: †Santiago Acosta Camacho
 Carmen Sablan Dela Cruz Camacho

His memories will forever live in the hearts of His:

Wife: Lydia Dela Cruz Camacho King
Children and Grandchildren: Santiago John & Jocelyn King (Kobe John & Aiden Joseph)
 Eulogio C. King, Jr.
 Patrick Jake C. King
 Vincent George C. King & Isha Adhitari (Kathalea Vinicia)
 Carmen Maria C. King

Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws of †Eloy:

†Oscar M. King - family
 Rita K. & †Paulino SN. Manglona and family
 Steven M. & †Emiliana SN. King and family
 Juanis M. & †Ermelunda B. King and family
 Vicente M. & Martina E. King and family
 Cristina K. & Jesus T. Cabrera and family
 Magdalena K. & Romulu B. Misola and family
 Rosalie K. & Louisito D. Bautista and family
 Alejandro M. & Lilia M. King and family
 Thomas M. & Karen King and family
 Juan M. King and children
 †Rudolfo M. King & Angie C. Atalig and family

†Alicia & Miguel Evangelista and family

Dolores Chugualaf and family
 Victor & Eloise Borja and family
 Esteban & Corazon Borja and children
 Arsene & Diana Borja and family
 Raymond & Bertha Borja and family
 Gilbert & Chona Borja and family
 †Clarence Borja

Jasper Borja & Lisa Aguon and family
 Clarence & Brooklyn Borja and family
 Lisa Borja & Godfrey Mendiola and family



Brothers-In-Law and Sisters-In-Law of †Eloy:

Gabriel DLC. & Frances T. Camacho and family
 †Joseph DLC. & Martha C. Camacho and family
 Francisco DLC. Camacho & Mazie SN. Taitano and family
 Patricia C. & Jose P. Villagomez and family
 Edward DLC. & Elizabeth G. Camacho and family
 Martin DLC. & Raynita L. Camacho and family
 Ricardo DLC. & Cynthia R. Camacho and family
 Ruth C. & Steven M. Pangalinan and family
 Gernadine DLC. Camacho & Norbert O. Mettao

Mass of Intentions are being celebrated daily at 6:00am at Kristo Rai Church and Mount Carmel Cathedral and also at San Jose Church in Tinian at 6:00am. Holy Rosary is being prayed nightly at 7:00pm at San Jose Church, Tinian.

Family viewing will be on Wednesday, January 28, 2015 from 4pm to 6pm at the Nuestra Señora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel. His remains will be taken to Tinian on Thursday, January 29, 2015.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, January 31, 2015. His remains will be escorted from Tinian Health Center to San Jose Church, Tinian at 7:30am. Responso Service will be at 8:00am followed by Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am and Interment Service will be at 12:00nn at Tinian Cemetery where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers,

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Lydia Camacho King, Children and Families



Life & Style

Colombians celebrate Miss Universe title

BO G O T A , Colombia (AP)—Carnival has come a few weeks early to the Caribbean city of Barranquilla where residents took to the streets on Monday to show their hometown pride after local beauty queen Paulina Vega was crowned Miss Universe.

Even President Juan Manuel Santos took time out during an official visit to France to congratulate Vega for her "historic"

title Sunday night in Miami, where the 22-year-old business administration student beat out finalists from the U.S., Jamaica, the Netherlands and Ukraine.

"This demonstrates that in Colombia we have women who are intelligent, hard-working and perseverant in the face of obstacles," Santos said. "They're also very pretty."

Colombians are obsessed with beauty and pageants are a major draw across social classes. But unlike neighboring Venezuela, which has won seven Miss Universe titles,

Colombians are accustomed to falling short of the crown, with four runner-up appearances since 1992.

The only other Colombian Miss Universe is 76-year-old Luz Marina Zuluaga, who won the title in 1958. She told The Associated Press that Vega's honor is long overdue.

"Like everyone else I'm very happy that a Colombian has finally won," said Zuluaga, recalling how much the pageant had changed in the five decades since she was crowned. Bikinis weren't

yet a feature of the swimsuit competition and preparation for the gala event was almost nil in contrast to the industry of beauty schools, plastic surgeons and diet coaches that have sprouted up to prepare women for competition.

Vega's hometown, the port city of Barranquilla, erupted in traditional cumbia music and dance as Colombian media descended on the city Monday in search of relatives and friends of Vega. The city of more than 1.4 million is known for hosting South America's most-raucous



AP

Reigning Miss Universe Gabriela Isler, right, crowns the new Miss Universe, Paulina Vega of Colombia, left, during the Miss Universe pageant in Miami, Sunday, Jan. 25, 2015.

In Celebration of His New Life †Vicente Manglona Sablan

Lovingly known as "Ben" / "Vince"

Born to life on December 19, 1959 and was called to Eternal rest on January 25, 2015

In His new life, He now joins His:

Parents: †Vicente Atalig and † Carmen Manglona Sablan
Parents-in-law: †Francisco Santos and †Elizabeth Castro Deleon Guerrero

His memories will forever live in the hearts of His: Wife:

Bobbie Deleon Guerrero Sablan

Children and grandchildren:

Nikita DLG. Sablan (Liam Ryan Vincent Wilson)
Vincent DLG. Sablan & Moriah Cabral (Isaiah Vicente Cabral Sablan)
Megan DLG. Sablan (Destiny Faith Palacios)

Rearred Son: Jonathan Sablan & Renaesha Villagomez Sablan
(Zavier & Nevaeh Sablan)

Brothers, Sisters and In-law:

Bert M./ Chechang Sanchez Sablan and Children
Angie Sablan/Jerry Reyes and Children
Juan/Bobbie Torres Sablan and Children
Henry M./ Lulu Sablan and Children
Fermina A. Sablan and Children
Liana Sablan/Richard U. Hofschneider and Children
Diego M./ Elaine Sablan and Children

Brothers In-Law and Sisters In-law:

Josephine DLG. & Victor Mesta and Family
Antonio C. & Annie De Leon Guerrero and Family
Joaquina DLG and Ramon Chong and Family
Theresa De Leon Guerrero & Ricardo Cabrera and Family
Ramon C. De Leon Guerrero and Son

He will be greatly missed by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren, In-laws and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions are being celebrated each evening at 6:00pm at Nuestra Senora de Soledad Church in Kagman and Holy Rosary is being recited after Mass at 7:00pm.

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, February 02, 2015. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:00am to Nuestra Senora de Soledad Church in Kagman. Reponsorial Service will be at 7:30am followed by Holy Rosary at 8:00am.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am followed by Interment Services at Sanctuario PAX Memorial Gardens where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Please join us in prayers,

Bobbie DLG. Sablan, Children and Family

Carnival after Rio de Janeiro every February.

It's also the birthplace of two other globally distinguished beauties: singer Shakira and actress Sofia Vergara. Both took to Twitter in demonstrate their hometown pride over Vega's title with their more than 35 million combined followers.

Pageants and performance run in Vega's family. Her grandmother, Elvira Castillo, was Miss Atlantico 1953 (Colombia) and her grandfather is legendary tenor Gaston Vega.

But the contests leading up to Miss Universe were a first for Vega, who is one of eight children. She also said they would be her last, as she is eager to return to her business studies, saying in a post-pageant press conference: "It gives me independence. I want

to have my own company."

Real estate mogul and reality TV star Donald Trump, who owns the pageant, said many predicted Vega would take the crown a few weeks ago when contestants first arrived in Miami for the festivities.

"From the minute she walked in the building, people said, 'She's a star,'" Trump said.

Trump said Colombia was in the running to host next year's pageant but noted China was also a strong candidate.

Vega's win keeps the title in the hands of another Latina—reigning Miss Universe Gabriela Isler is from Venezuela.

As Miss Universe, Vega will receive an undisclosed salary, a luxury apartment in New York, a wardrobe and oodles of beauty products, and a one-year scholarship from the New York Film Academy.

Sen. John McCain gives thumbs up to 'American Sniper' movie

WASHINGTON (AP)—The chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee says critics of U.S. foreign policy are disparaging the movie, "American Sniper" and denigrating the memory of Chris Kyle, the U.S. serviceman depicted in the film.

In a statement Monday, Sen. John McCain congratulated director Clint Eastwood and the cast and crew of the movie for honoring the life of Kyle whom he calls an American hero.

The Arizona Republican says the film offers a compassionate portrayal of service members, their wartime experiences, the burdens they often bear upon returning home and untold sacrifices of their families.

To critics like Michael Moore, a documentary maker, the film glorifies violence.

Moore, a staunch opponent of the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003, tweeted about the movie: "Snipers aren't heroes, and invaders are worse."

New doc goes inside Kurt Cobain's head

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—"Kurt Cobain: Montage of Heck," a fiery, evocative and deeply felt look at one of rock's most misunderstood and tragic figures, presents a portrait of a man and an artist in despair with the aid of never-before-seen home videos, personal notes and archival footage.

The film, a fully authorized

account of Cobain's life, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival on Saturday and airs on HBO in May.

Director Brett Morgen ("The Kid Stays in the Picture") spent eight years putting the movie together. The insightful film pulsates with vitality and rage in its examination of the short life of Cobain, from his childhood

in Aberdeen, Washington to his suicide in 1994 at the age of 27.

"He just wanted to have a family. I think the perception of Kurt all these years has been so off—this whiney white male who didn't like fame," said Morgen at a screening Monday. "It's a story of a guy who dies of a broken heart. It's a real tragedy."

The illuminating home videos range from scenes of Cobain as a happy 2-year-old, blowing kisses at the camera and offering his cracker to the person behind the camera, to him, visibly and uncomfortably strung out and rail thin, holding his young daughter Frances Bean as his wife Courtney Love attempts to

give their toddler a haircut.

The narrative is mostly linear but nonetheless experimental. Morgen uses everything from Nirvana's music, Cobain's private writings, drawings, to-do lists, animation and archived interviews to tell a dizzyingly complicated story. It also does not shy away from showing both

Melissa Rivers files lawsuit in mother Joan Rivers' death

NEW YORK (AP)—While Joan Rivers lay sedated in a Manhattan clinic, her doctors performed unauthorized medical procedures, snapped a selfie with the comedian and failed to act as her vital signs deteriorated, according to a malpractice lawsuit filed Monday by her daughter, Melissa.

The 81-year-old comedian and star of "Fashion Police" on E! died Sept. 4, days after she went in for a routine endoscopy at Yorkville Endoscopy on Manhattan's Upper East Side and stopped breathing.

The lawsuit filed in Manhattan State Supreme Court paints a picture of a careless, cocky staff of doctors who ran roughshod over Rivers while she was unconscious, and it suggests that she died because of their incompetence. The suit seeks unspecified damages.

Melissa Rivers said in a statement that filing the lawsuit was one of the most difficult decisions she had to make.

"What ultimately guided me was my unwavering belief that no family should ever have to go through what my mother, Cooper and I have been through," she said, referring to her son. "The level of medical mismanagement, incompetency, disrespect and outrageous behavior is shocking and frankly, almost incomprehensible."

She said her mother deserved better.



In this May 15, 2014 file photo, Melissa Rivers, left, and Joan Rivers attend the NBCUniversal Cable Entertainment 2014 Upfront at the Javits Center in New York.

The city's medical examiner found that Joan Rivers died of brain damage due to lack of oxygen after she stopped breathing during the endoscopy. Her death was classified as a therapeutic complication. The classification is not commonly used; more deaths are certified as accidents, homicides, suicides or natural causes. Negligence was not suspected. Had it been, it would have been listed as a contributing cause.

A statement from Yorkville said it wasn't appropriate to comment on the lawsuit.

"The Rivers family has, as it has always had, our deepest sympathies and condolences," the statement said. "The 51 physicians, nurses and staff who currently work at Yorkville remain firmly committed to providing the highest quality of care to their patients."

The lawsuit alleges that the doctors mishandled the endoscopy and performed another medical procedure called a laryngoscopy on Rivers' vocal cords without consent. When the anesthesiologist expressed concern over what the procedure would do to Rivers' ability to breathe, she was told she

was being "paranoid" by the gastroenterologist performing the endoscopy, Dr. Lawrence Cohen, the suit said. He has since resigned.

Rivers' private ear, nose and throat specialist, Gwen Korovin, was introduced as an observer in the operating room but instead performed two procedures though she wasn't cleared to work at the clinic, the lawsuit said. Rivers crashed during the second—after Cohen snapped pictures of Rivers, and with Korovin, saying later he thought Rivers would want to see them, the suit said. Korovin then left the operating room to avoid being caught, according to the suit.

A message left with Korovin's attorney wasn't returned. Calls to her office and Cohen's office and home rang unanswered.

Smith's representative said

Monday the publishers of

Petty's 1989 hit contacted the

publishers of Smith's song,

which was one of last year's biggest hits. Smith and "Stay With Me" writers James Napier and William Phillips say they agree their song is similar to Petty's song, written with Jeff Lynne.

"Although the likeness was a complete coincidence, all involved came to an immediate and amicable agreement in which Tom Petty and Jeff Lynne are now credited as co-writers of 'Stay With Me' along with Sam Smith, James Napier and William Phillips," they said in a statement.

Petty's "I Won't Back Down" peaked at No. 12 on Billboard's Hot 100 chart. A representative for Petty declined to comment.

"Stay With Me," Smith's de-

but song, has sold more than 3.5 million tracks and peaked at No. 2 on the Hot 100. The breakthrough British singer is nominated for six Grammy Awards at next month's show, including song of the year, an honor solely for the writers of a track.

The Recording Academy's senior vice president of awards, Bill Freimuth, said Monday that Petty and Lynne would not be added to the nominations list for the song.

"Since Lynne and Petty did not do any new writing for this work, we are considering their original work to have been interpolated by Napier, Phillips and Smith for 'Stay With Me,'" Freimuth said in a statement.

Lynne and Petty won't be considered Grammy nominees or Grammy recipients should the song win, he said. Rather, they would be given certificates to honor their participation in the work, just like other writers of sampled or interpolated work, he said.

'Jersey Belle' star writing memoir, planned for fall release

NEW YORK (AP)—"Jersey Belle" star Jaime Primak Sullivan has more than one way of getting real.

Sullivan has a deal with Touchstone for a "hilarious and



frank fish-out-of-water memoir" about living in Birmingham, Alabama, that is scheduled for publication this fall. The book is called "Saved by the Belles: The Southern Education of a Jersey Girl," Touchstone an-

nounced Monday.

Besides the "Jersey Belle" reality series, which airs on Bravo, Sullivan is also the creator of Cawfeetawk, an online program. Her memoir will be co-written with Eve Adamson.

Touchstone is an imprint of Simon & Schuster.

Husband hopes wife is willing to spice up their love life

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married for quite a while, and our intimate life became monotonous and unimaginative a long time ago. Over the years I have suggested we try things like role-playing and other non-extreme variations during intimate times. My suggestions were met with rolling eyes and retorts like, "I'm your wife, not a hooker." I finally gave up and try to be content with what we have together.

Then one evening she surprised me and did one of the things I had suggested. It was very nice and she seemed to like it, too. I didn't know what to say to her. "Thank you" somehow seemed condescending. We have done nothing like it since.

I doubt if the answer is in the etiquette books. What should I have said to her to let her know how much I appreciated her loosening up and hope it will perhaps make her more comfortable spicing things up in the future?

ETIQUETTE ADVOCATE IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR ADVOCATE: Praise is a powerful incentive. Flowers would have been nice. But since you didn't send any, try this: Invite your wife out to dinner at a nice restaurant. Tell her how surprised and delighted you were with the special surprise she gave you. A small gift to commemorate the occasion couldn't hurt either.

A satisfying sex life is all about communication, and if my mail is any indicator, if more wives were uninhibited in the bedroom, there would be a lot less business for the "professionals."

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating a wonderful man for two years and am in hopes of getting a proposal soon. We are both committed to staying pure before marriage and have not been intimate.

My question to you is, do I have to tell him, now or ever, that I have had breast implants? I did it several years ago, and it greatly improved my self-esteem. I'm glad I did it.

Since he has never felt any breasts, if I tell him, my fear is he will get hung up on the thought, "I wonder what REAL breasts feel like." On the other hand, if I don't tell him and sometime in the future he finds out, he may be like, "I can't believe you kept that from me." What would you advise?

RETICENT IN KENTUCKY

DEAR RETICENT: Many women have breast enhancement surgery so their figures will be more balanced. For the reason you have mentioned, you should tell your boyfriend. It should make no difference to him. However, if it does, it's better that you know now before you spend any more time on someone who measures the worth of a woman by how "real"

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



her breasts are.

P.S. If he wants to know what "real" breasts feel like, tell him to go hug his mother.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: I'll pass along this pithy sentiment shared with me by former California Gov. Gray Davis. In a commencement speech to students graduating from Columbia Law School, Davis told them: "School is fair. Life is not. Just get used to it."

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

**EMPLOYMENT**

1 - TOUR COORDINATOR
2 - TRAVEL AGENTS
2 - TOUR GUIDE

Must have 2 years experience. Able to speak, read and write English, Chinese & Korean language. With computer skills, knowledgeable in Microsoft programs: Word, Excel and Powerpoint. *Applicants for Tour Guide must be able to drive 12-seater van.

1 - COMPUTER PROGRAMMER

Must know create, modify, and test the code, forms, and script that allow computer applications to run. Minimum of 2 years experience. Able to speak, read and write English, Chinese & Korean language

1 - WEB DEVELOPER

Proficient in designing, building, or maintaining web sites. Minimum of 4 years experience required. Able to speak, read and write English, Chinese & Korean language. Email resume and police clearance to costaworldtour@hotmail.com. COSTA WORLD CORPORATION dba COSTA WORLD TOUR Tel: 235-9272

EMPLOYMENT

(3) Cooks. Specializes in Filipino Cuisine. Must have 3 years exp. Can work flexible hrs including weekends. \$6.05/ hr. Consuelo N. Bernardo dba Connie's BBQ & Fastfood/Catering. Call 989-6585.

HOUSE FOR RENT

1 Bedroom, 1 Bath, 1 Kitchen, Double Closet & AC. Fully Concrete with Security Bars and Deadbolt. Safe quiet area. Ahgaga Rd. Pago. \$300/month including water. Call: 256-1219 or 783-5448.

As Lito-Unfurnished 4BR 2 BTH, Utilities not included. \$800 per month. Contact 285-9235 after 6:00PM.

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following position:

Accountant

Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work related experience in financial management and/or payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and Power Point software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, February 09, 2015

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Job Vacancy Announcement

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. has immediate job openings for the following positions:

Position: Cook (1)

Position Summary: To prepare and cook food for a small restaurant, control wastage, clean galley and kitchen appliances and work areas, to ensure cleanliness and a functional operation and to be able to prepare and cook food promptly, in presentable and delectable way.

Position Requirement: High school graduate. GED or equivalent plus 3 years work experience as cook in a restaurant or hotel. Preferably with experience in Western, Japanese and Chinese cuisines. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized and self-discipline. Must be able to communicate in English and Chinese language.

Please send application by email to: hr@clubsaipan.com. Deadline for submission of completed applications is on February 13, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT**Realty Management Services**

Fina Sisu Terraces
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sqft. \$250/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. \$350-\$550/month. Close to NMC campus. MHA applicants accepted.

Ocean View Terraces
(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view. \$600/month

Sunset View Terraces
(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view. \$550/month

Hilltop Condominium*
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view. \$700/month Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft \$500/month
*Wi-Fi & nighttime security excluded

FEATURES:

- Fully Furnished
- Back-up Generator
- Air-conditioning in all rooms
- FREE WiFi
- Laundry Area
- Nighttime Security
- Ample Parking
- 24hr water

Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com
Call for an appointment 235-6527/8.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING**AQUAVILLE INCORPORATION****(1) Marketing Manager**

- Must have knowledge in Marine Sports Activities
- Overseer or monitor new trends of Marine Sports Services
- Compile list describing Marine Sports Activity Services
- Develop pricing strategies with the goal of maximizing the firms' profit or share of the market while ensuring the company's customers
- Able to speak English, Korean & Chinese Language
- Must have at least 3 years work related experience

Interested applicants, please send resume to santos_adonis@yahoo.com or call 670-323-2916

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING**MACS MARINE****(1) Marketing Manager**

- Must have knowledge in Marine Sports Activities
- Overseer or monitor new trends of Marine Sports Services
- Compile list describing Marine Sports Activity Services
- Develop pricing strategies with the goal of maximizing the firms' profit or share of the market while ensuring the company's customers
- Able to speak English, Korean & Chinese Language
- Must have at least 3 years work related experience

Interested applicants, please send resume to santos_adonis@yahoo.com or call 670-323-2916

Job Vacancy Announcement**Rong Hua Corporation dba: O2 Spa****(2) Masseuse**

3 years' experience - Salary \$6.05/hr
Interested applicants may call 233-4825, 285-8018 or mail resume to PMB 698 Box 10003 Saipan, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**Commercial Cleaner (1)****Butchers (2)**

Salary: \$6.05/hr. With at least two years experience, Flexible, and can work independently.

Interested applicant, please mail your resume at
DONG RIM CORPORATION
PMB 200 P.O. BOX 10000, SAIPAN, MP 96950

WHATZIT Solution: I'm in the mood for love

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classified Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS

	COMBO
	(PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15
• 5-Liner	\$24

ADVERTISING DEADLINE**Classified Ads**

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION**Classified Ads**

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

MOI'MOD 4·0

www.facebook.com/dingbatgames

Looking for a way to tell everyone about your business?
You're looking at it!
Saipan Tribune **235-6397**

Davis' dunks aplenty lead Pelicans past 76ers, 99-74



NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Anthony Davis had 32 points, 10 rebounds and four blocked shots, and the New Orleans Pelicans stretched their season-long winning streak to four games with a 99-74 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers on Monday night.

Ryan Anderson scored 19 points and Eric Gordon added 13 for New Orleans, while Tyreke Evans tied a season high—set one night earlier—with 12 assists.

K.J. McDaniels scored 16 points for the 76ers, who lost their sixth straight. Henry Sims and Luc Mbah a Moute had 14 points.

Philadelphia played without Michael Carter-Williams, who was sidelined by an upper respiratory infection.

Davis was 12-of-19 shooting, including five layups and five crowd-pleasing dunks, and made all eight of his free throws as New Orleans (24-21) went three games above .500 for the first time since coach Monty Williams' first season in 2010-11.

Davis had his second 13-point quarter of the game in the third period, and his last two free throws gave New Orleans its largest lead at 85-60. Davis and the rest of New Orleans' starters, including Gordon and Evans, did not play in the fourth quarter.

The Pelicans outshot the Sixers 45.3 percent (39 of 86) to 34.6 percent (28 of 81) and outrebounded Philadelphia 52-38.

Half of Davis' rebounds came on the offensive end, several leading to putbacks. He also had three steals and three assists while not turning the ball over once.

He may have been his most animated after his pass from the top of the key led to Omer Asik's layup as he was fouled. Asik finished with 10 points.

Davis had 13 points in the first quarter, highlighted by an alley-oop jam in which he caught Evans' lob with his right hand while soaring toward the hoop and slammed it down in one well-timed motion over a defender cutting across his path.

His early surge helped the Pelicans race to a 31-19 lead early in the second quarter, but with Davis getting a rest, the Sixers used a 14-3 run to cut their deficit to 34-33.

Davis returned shortly afterward and the Pelicans gradually rebuilt their lead to 13 when Gordon's 3 made it 52-39.

The Sixers closed to 52-43 by half-time on Mbah a Moute's turnaround



New Orleans Pelican forward Anthony Davis (23) tries to block the shot of Minnesota Timberwolves Gorgui Dieng (5) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Friday, Jan. 23, 2015, in Minneapolis.

bank shot, which gave him 10 points in the half.

Thunder 92, Timberwolves 84

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook scored 18 points as Oklahoma City got

the win while playing without the injured Kevin Durant.

Durant sat out after spraining the big toe on his left foot Sunday against Cleveland. Westbrook shot just 7 for 22 from the field, but was 4 for 6 and

scored 11 points in the fourth quarter to help the Thunder remain in control. Serge Ibaka added 13 points and a season-high 19 rebounds.

Andrew Wiggins scored 23 points, Thaddeus Young had 22 and Gorgui

Dieng had a season-high 18 rebounds for the league-worst Timberwolves, who shot a season-low 34.1 percent from the field.

Anthony Morrow and Reggie Jackson each had 14 points to help Oklahoma City's reserves outscore Minnesota's 45-21.

Clippers 102, Nuggets 98

In Los Angeles, Jamal Crawford scored 19 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter as the Los Angeles Clippers held off the Denver Nuggets for their fifth straight victory.

Crawford scored their final five points and had a key save that led to a basket in the closing seconds, when the Clippers completed their biggest comeback of the season after being down by 16 earlier in the game.

Matt Barnes added 18 points for Los Angeles, and Blake Griffin had 14 points, nine rebounds and 10 assists. Chris Paul scored 15 points.

Ty Lawson led the Nuggets with 19 points and 11 assists.

Grizzlies 103, Magic 94

In Memphis, Tennessee, Zach Randolph had 24 points, 10 rebounds and six assists in Memphis' third straight win, and Marc Gasol added 16 points and 10 boards.

Beno Udrih added 15 points and Jeff Green finished with 12 for the Grizzlies.

Orlando, which dropped its sixth in a row, got 18 points and 12 rebounds from Nikola Vucevic. Victor Oladipo also had 18 points and Elfrid Payton had 12 points and six assists, but shot 5 of 14 from the field. Dewayne Dedmon had 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Memphis led by as many as 20 and held a double-digit advantage through much of the game.

Celtics 99, Jazz 90

In Salt Lake City, Tayshaun Prince scored 19 points as Boston held on for the road win.

Tyler Zeller had 14 points and seven rebounds for the Celtics, who grabbed control with a big second quarter. Jared Sullinger had 12 points and nine rebounds, and Avery Bradley also scored 12.

Prince, who was acquired from Memphis in a three-team trade on Jan. 12, was 7 for 10 from the field and 3 for 4 at the free-throw line.

Gordon Hayward had 26 points for Utah, and Enes Kanter finished with 20.

Boston outscored Utah 38-14 in the second quarter, shooting 60 percent from the field in the period.

plete their disastrous trade for Steve Nash, who played just 65 games in the last three years and never suited up this season. But Los Angeles will keep the pick this summer if it lands in the top five, providing ample incentive for fans to hope the Lakers' collapse is total.

Bryant wasn't at the Lakers' training complex Monday, and he didn't attend their loss to Houston on Sunday night. Scott plans to speak with Bryant throughout the week to see what he's thinking about his future, but he hopes Bryant isn't ready to quit.

"With the Achilles last year, everybody said he was done," Scott said. "He came back and I think the first month of the season, he proved to everybody that he still has a lot left in the tank. I think he still has that hunger and that competitive nature to come out and prove it again. After the surgery, I'll talk to him and see how it is. We'll talk and we'll go from there."

Kobe Bryant to have shoulder surgery, likely out for season

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—Kobe Bryant will have surgery Wednesday on his torn right rotator cuff, likely ending his 19th season with the Los Angeles Lakers.

Bryant seriously aggravated a lingering shoulder ache while dunking last week in New Orleans. The star guard and the Lakers decided Monday on surgery, which typically requires several months of rehabilitation.

The Lakers will announce a timetable for Bryant's recovery after surgery, but coach Byron Scott anticipates losing the third-leading scorer in NBA history for the rest of the year.

"Kobe is probably not going to play again this season, Scott said.

"We all know how tough he is," Scott added after Monday's practice. "He's a trooper, so we pray for him that his

return will be sooner rather than later."

The 36-year-old Bryant's torn rotator cuff is likely his third straight season-ending injury. He missed the 2013 playoffs with a torn Achilles tendon, and he played just six games

last season before breaking a bone near his left knee. His famously resilient body has finally worn down from the accumulated grind of nearly two decades and several lengthy postseasons with the Lakers, including five NBA title runs.

After returning at nearly full strength in training camp, Bryant sat out eight games to rest in the last month and played on a strict minutes limit. He still dealt with assorted aches and setbacks before he injured his shoulder.

Bryant met with Neal ElAttrache of the Kerlan Jobe Orthopaedic Clinic on

Monday, determining his injury's extent and deciding on surgery. He is averaging 22.3 points, 5.7 rebounds and 5.6 assists in 35 games this season, but shooting a career-worst 37.3 percent in a wildly inconsistent season.

The Lakers reacted to the news with disappointment and respect for Bryant, who was selected to the All-Star game for the 17th time last week.

"Kobe is a warrior," Lakers forward Carlos Boozer said. "He's strong, and he's going to attack rehab like he always has."

The Lakers also discouraged speculation that Bryant's career might be over. He is the NBA's highest-paid player at \$23.5 million this season, and he is under contract for \$25 million next year.

"I think he's done everything that

you can possibly do in this league, and I think at times, we don't appreciate all the stuff that he's been able to accomplish," Scott said. "I don't think we appreciate how tough he is, all the injuries and other things that he's played with, to be able to come back the way that he's come back. I don't see Kobe as the type of guy that wants to leave his legacy on (these) terms. I think he wants to go out on his own terms. We'll just have to wait and see."

The Lakers (12-33) are in the midst of another aimless season, losing eight straight heading into Tuesday's visit from Washington. The 16-time NBA champion franchise is almost certain to miss the playoffs in consecutive seasons for the first time since 1976.

The Lakers also owe a first-round draft pick to the Phoenix Suns to com-

Sharapova to play Makarova in Australian Open semifinals



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Maria Sharapova moved closer to another Australian Open title, set to face a fellow Russian in the semifinals who has never beaten her.

Sharapova made all the big points look easy Tuesday in defeating 20-year-old Eugenie Bouchard 6-3, 6-2—her fourth consecutive win over the Canadian—and advance to a semifinal against Ekaterina Makarova, who earlier beat third-seeded Simona Halep 6-4, 6-0.

“I felt pretty good from the start, didn’t feel I had too many letdowns,” Sharapova said, adding that her close call in the second round—facing two match points against a qualifier—sharpened her focus for the rest of the tournament.

“When you are down and out in the second match, I don’t want to face that call with my father too many times during a tournament,” she said.

The last time Sharapova and Bouchard met—in the semifinals at the French Open last year—Bouchard won the first set before Sharapova came back to take the next two. The Russian then won the title at Roland Garros.

This time, Bouchard, who made the finals of Wimbledon and two other Grand Slam semis last year, didn’t come close to taking a set, looking flat from the outset while being broken in her opening service game. The Genie Army, a group of young Australian men who croon about the Canadian player, was left to sing another day.

Bouchard had 30 unforced errors and had her service broken four times.

“She didn’t give me many chances, and against the great players you have to take any chances you can get,” Bouchard said. If you don’t have time, you have to go for riskier shots, and I made a few too many unforced errors because I was under pressure.”

Bouchard said she plans to go back to Canada to see her family, reflect on some possible coaching changes and decide whether she’ll play Fed Cup for Canada against the Czech Republic in Quebec City on Feb. 7-8.

Sharapova, the 2008 Australian Open champion and a two-time finalist, has a 5-0 record against Makarova, including wins in the



Maria Sharapova of Russia waves after defeating Eugenie Bouchard of Canada in their quarterfinal match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2015. AP

Patriots owner makes strong defense of team



CHANDLER, Ariz. (AP)—New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft

demanded an apology from the league once the Patriots are found to be not guilty of breaking any rules regarding using underinflated footballs in the AFC championship game.

A conclusion Kraft is certain will occur.

In an unscheduled statement, Kraft strongly defended his team’s actions and integrity Monday night.

“I believe unconditionally that the New England Patriots did nothing wrong in this process that was in violation of NFL rules,” Kraft said at the team’s first media availability in Arizona.

“If the (Ted) Wells investigation is not able to definitively determine that our organization tampered with the air pressure in the footballs, I would expect and hope the league would apologize to our entire team, and in particular to coach (Bill) Belichick and Tom Brady, for what they’ve had to endure this week,” Kraft added, at times sounding angry.

“I’m disappointed in the way this entire matter has been handled and

reported upon. We expect hard facts rather than circumstantial leaked evidence to drive the conclusion of this investigation.”

The NFL has said evidence shows the Patriots used underinflated footballs during the first half of the AFC title game victory over Indianapolis. The league is still determining why the balls were underinflated.

NFL Executive Vice President Jeff Pash and Ted Wells of the law firm of Paul Weiss are leading the probe. Wells was the investigator in the Miami Dolphins bullying scandal and has said the current investigation could last a while.

Belichick and Brady followed Kraft to the podium, but basically left any comments on the investigation to their boss.

When asked if he was upset by the accusations and jokes of which he was the subject, Brady said: “I’ve moved past those initial feelings and I want to move forward.”

But moving away from the deflated footballs theme will be particularly difficult on Tuesday, which is media day, when just about any question has been fair game in the past.

So Kraft came out swinging before then with a speech tinged with emotion—and fire.

“Tom, Bill and I have been together

for 15 years. They are my guys,” said Kraft, who has three Super Bowl titles and three other trips to the big game since 2001.

“They are part of my family. Bill, Tom and I have had many difficult discussions over the years. I’ve never known them to lie to me. That’s why I’m confident in saying what I just said.

“It bothers me greatly their reputations and integrity—and by association that of our team—has been called into question this week.”

This hardly is the first time the Patriots have been under such scrutiny. Most famously was 2007, their undefeated regular season. Revelations that New England videotaped New York Jets coaches’ signals during a game cost Belichick a \$500,000 fine, and the team was fined \$250,000 and stripped of its 2008 first-round draft choice by the NFL.

During this year’s playoffs, Ravens coach John Harbaugh accused the Patriots of being deceitful with some alignments on offense. The NFL exonerated Kraft’s team of any wrongdoing.

Now, Kraft has taken the offensive.

“I, and our entire organization,” he said, “believe strongly in the integrity of the game and the rules of fair play are properly, equitably and fairly enforced.”

Source: Yanks thinking of not making \$6M payment to A-Rod



NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Yankees are

thinking about not making a \$6 million payment to Alex Rodriguez if he hits six home runs and ties Willie Mays at 660 for fourth place on the career list.

Rodriguez signed a \$275 million, 10-year contract with the team in December 2007 and a separate marketing agreement that called for \$6 million payments for up to five milestone accomplishments designated by the Yankees. Each payment is due within 15 days of designation and is in exchange for rights such as using Rodriguez’s name and image in selling licensed goods.

At the time of the marketing agreement, those accomplishments were contemplated to be tying the home run totals of Mays, Babe Ruth (714), Hank Aaron (755) and Barry Bonds (762), and breaking Bonds’ major league record.

Rodriguez returns to the team next month after a season-long drug suspension and has three seasons and \$61 million in guaranteed money remaining in his contract.

New York’s thought process on the \$6 million payment, first reported by the Daily News, was described to The Associated Press on Monday by a person familiar with the deal who spoke on condition of anonymity because no public statements were authorized. The Yankees are thinking of letting any accomplishment pass without declaring it a milestone.

“Occasionally when players have an issue, they have asked me for advice, come to see me, wanted to talk to me about something,” Manfred said Monday. “I don’t put a particular significance on this meeting. It was one of those things. A player wanted to come in. We had a brief meeting.”

Rodriguez, a three-time AL MVP, turns 40 in July, and the Yankees have said they plan to shift him from third base to designated hitter.

quarterfinals here in 2012 and 2013. In four of those losses, Makarova failed to win a set.

“She is going to come into that match free and happy to be in that situation,” Sharapova said. “And that’s dangerous. She uses that left-handed serve really well. It’s always tricky playing a lefty and your compatriot, as well, but one of us will be in the final and that makes me happy.”

It will be Makarova’s second consecutive Grand Slam semifinal. She made her first major semi at last year’s U.S. Open, losing to Serena Williams after beating Bouchard in the fourth round.

“I’m so comfortable here, it’s all the atmosphere and maybe memories from New York that I bring here,” said Makarova.

The other women’s semifinalists will be determined on Wednesday when No. 1-ranked Williams plays last year’s finalist, Dominika Cibulkova, and Venus Williams, playing in her first Grand Slam quarterfinal in nearly five years, takes on 19-year-old American Madison Keys.

If the Williams sisters play each other in the semifinals, it would be their first meeting in a Grand Slam tournament since the Wimbledon final in 2009—won by Serena.

The 26-year-old Makarova has had her best Grand Slam results at Melbourne Park, advancing to fourth round twice as well as those quarterfinal losses to Sharapova. Last year, she lost to eventual champion Li Na in the fourth round.

Halep said her nerves got to her.

“I was just I was a little bit stressed, I don’t know why,” the 23-year-old Halep said. “I had experience from last year to play quarterfinals, so it doesn’t mean that I felt pressure. I just I didn’t feel the game, the ball. It was a very bad day for me.”

Two men’s quarterfinals were set for later Tuesday. Rafael Nadal took on Tomas Berdych and the night match saw Andy Murray play local hope Nick Kyrgios. The winners will meet in the semifinals.

The 19-year-old Kyrgios, who beat then-No. 1 Nadal in the fourth round at Wimbledon last year, defeated Andreas Seppi in the fourth round, the player who knocked Roger Federer out of the tournament.

Kyrgios is the first male player since Federer in 2001 to reach two Grand Slam quarterfinals as a teen.

ated Press on Monday by a person familiar with the deal who spoke on condition of anonymity because no public statements were authorized. The Yankees are thinking of letting any accomplishment pass without declaring it a milestone.

A failure to declare a milestone and make a payment likely would trigger a grievance on Rodriguez’s behalf by the Major League Baseball Players Association. Barring a settlement, the case would be heard by an arbitrator.

Rodriguez’s spokesman, Ron Berkowitz, declined comment.

A-Rod met last week with Rob Manfred, who headed the investigation of the Biogenesis of the America clinic that led to the player’s suspension for violation of baseball’s drug agreement and labor contract.

“Occasionally when players have an issue, they have asked me for advice, come to see me, wanted to talk to me about something,” Manfred said Monday. “I don’t put a particular significance on this meeting. It was one of those things. A player wanted to come in. We had a brief meeting.”

Rodriguez, a three-time AL MVP, turns 40 in July, and the Yankees have said they plan to shift him from third base to designated hitter.

Sonics eliminate Rollers 2

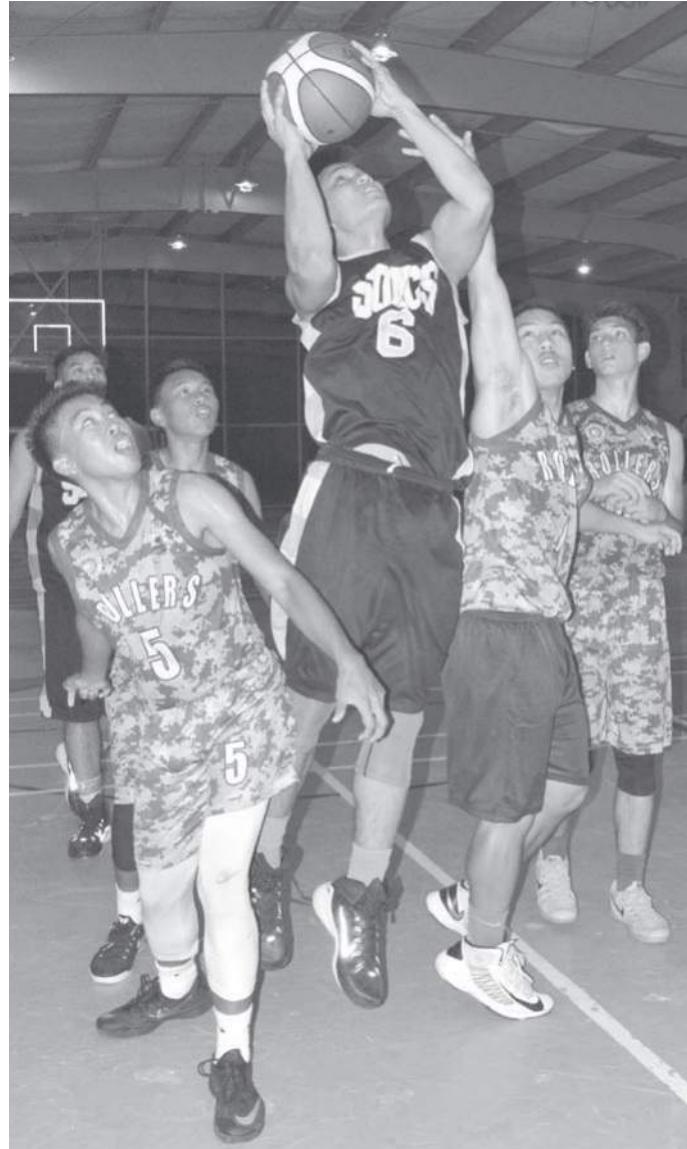
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roelyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

 The 670 Sonics booted out Rollers 2 after posting an 88-62 win in the penultimate elimination round game in the boys U19 division of the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic last night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The Sonics wrapped up the single elimination round with a 5-2 record for third place in the team standings behind early semifinalists Rollers 1 and Dream Team and will battle the latter for the seconds finals berth this Friday. Rollers 1 will fight the first finals seat against the winner of last night's match between the Ol'Aces and Kagman Risers, which had similar 3-3 slated, pending results of their make-or-break tiff yesterday. Rollers 2 missed the playoffs as it fell to a 3-4 record and joined Sun Palace (1-6) and Rollers 3 (0-7) in the showers.

Despite losing by 25 points against the Sonics, Rollers 2 put up a gallant stand, launching repeated rallies in the second half to threaten its foe.

Down by 21 early in the final half, 27-48, Jun Alipio anchored a 10-0 spurt to cut the deficit to a manageable number. Alipio hit two triples in



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Sonics' Emerson Feria muscles his way through the defense of Rollers 2 players during the closing minutes of their game in the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic yesterday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

GCA

From Page 28

the first set loss seemed to zap the energy out of Kagman.

The Lady Eagles, meanwhile, dropped the first set but made the necessary adjustments in the second to force a deciding frame.

The Geckos, who earlier dealt Kagman a 25-8, 27-25 beating in the 4:15pm first game, showed nerve of steel in the first set after surviving GCA's comeback bid to move within one set of wrapping up the victory. The second half of the MISO Girls volleyball season now follows

a best two-out-of-three sets format unlike in the early going where teams have to play the entire three frames.

The Lady Geckos were in control of the second and enjoyed a slim 14-12 lead when they ran into a number of errors from which the Lady Eagles capitalized on.

GCA went on a 12-7 exchange after that to move within one point of wrapping up the set, 24-21. The Lady Eagles won the set after SIS' Tiana Ranjo's return sailed out of bounds.

The third frame remained a nip-and-tuck affair highlighted by long rallies. SIS, despite losing two points due to confusion

on the backline players' proper positions, went up, 12-10, and was poised to win the match.

GCA, however, called a timeout to talk things over and somehow break SIS' momentum. When play resumed, the Lady Eagles scored the next five points with SIS' back-to-back wrong receptions helping their opponents' cause.

In other results, Mt. Carmel downed Saipan Southern High School, 25-20, 25-14, in another all-varsity match, while SIS JV defeated Kagman JV, 25-17, 14-25, 15-13. SSHS JV ended MHS JV's four-game winning run with a 25-23, 25-27, 9-15 decision.

mers, volunteer timers, and parents of swimmers. Some friends of the performers also showed up, including the 92-year-old mother of Jill Derickson—Mina Neidrauer—who, according to Kindel stood on deck critiquing them during several practices

The number was well received that the Dolphins had a hard time hearing the music coming from the ukuleles. "Because of all the clapping we couldn't really hear the music like we could during our practices. But fortunately we had learned the routine to a serious of counts so it worked out OK. The audience's enthusiasm and support was unexpected which made it so exciting," Kindel said.

The Dolphins started their routine with a tap, followed by a ballet leg, kip, pinwheel, two-man back dolphin, marching legs, 'Eiffel Tower,' front walkover with torpedo sculling, and 'oceania' with a 180-degree twist.

Each move drew cheers from spectators that included both SSC and Tsunami Saipan swim-

mers, volunteer timers, and parents of swimmers. Some friends of the performers also showed up, including the 92-year-old mother of Jill Derickson—Mina Neidrauer—who, according to Kindel stood on deck critiquing them during several practices

that rally, while Jethro Cruz added another triple, and Antonio Santos had a split free throw, moving Rollers 2 within 11, 48-27, with still 15:43 left in the game.

Two straight layups from Jaymark Dela Cruz off a twisting shot against the outstretched arms of Santos and a steal from Ken Abobo gave the Sonics more distance. However, Rollers 2 refused to give up, bringing the deficit to as low as 9 points three times, 51-60, 55-64, and 57-68.

On these three occasions, too, the Sonics withstood Rollers 2' rallies by getting timely baskets from Jack Aranda, Bryle Alegre, and Sean Rabasto. Rabasto later hit a step-up triple to spark an 11-0 run that sealed the win for the Sonics after Rollers 2 threatened for the last time with Melvin Deocares' triple cutting the lead to 10, 60-70.

The Sonics finished off Rollers 2 by making eight free throws in the homestretch, while the former was held to one field goal off Keon Rios' layup in the final four minutes of the match. Rollers 2 took many triples in the closing minutes and muffed a bundle to miss a playoff stint.

Aranda paced the Sonics with his 16 points, while Ra-

basto and De Guzman added 14 and 13, respectively. Cruz led Rollers 2 with his 11 points.

Sonics 88—Aranda 16, Rabasto 14, De Guzman 13, Alegre 8, Feria 7, Manzano 7, Javier 4, Dela Rosa 4, Flores 4,

Villanueva 2.

Rollers 2 62—Cruz 11, Danco 10, Deocares 10, Santos 10, Alipio 8, Rios 6, Ellama 6, Kwon 2.

Scoring by halves: 39-25, 88-61.

Business caging opening pushed back

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Organizers of the 2015 Inter-Commercial Business Basketball League pushed the opening date to Feb. 3, next Tuesday, as it set a final meeting tomorrow at 6pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

Coaches or representatives of confirmed participating teams need to attend since the \$530 entrance fee, necessary document, and other forms are due in the meeting. The ground rules will also be discussed. The entrance fee is payable to the Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Marpac-Budweiser, Saipan Stevedore, Pacific Islands Club, IT&E, Docomo Pacific, Mobil-JP World and the Public School System are some of the teams that confirmed their participation to the league.

Fiesta Resort is reportedly interested, while McDonald's

pulled out because of their workload. Joeten Enterprises and Saipan Ice & Water have yet to confirm if they are joining.

Teams that will join the league are advised to bring a copy of their respective 15-player rosters.

Only employees of the said businesses are allowed to participate and 12 players can suit up for each team every game. The Human Resource managers of each business establishment need to certify that players listed on their respective rosters are employees of the company they are representing.

Tournament format will follow single round-robin elimination and a double-round elims in the playoffs. Two games, at 6:30pm and 8pm, will be played every Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Ada gym.

All teams are required to have their respective complete set of uniforms.



NMA

From Page 28

events that will be affected by the resurfacing work at the facility since qualifiers in the CNMI-wide tournament runs from March to April. The finals is held every May.

"The challenge this time is to have an alternative. We don't want to cancel the All-Schools. Our kids' performances are important, but as much as we want to push ahead with the event, the safety of our kids is our number one concern," said Tebuteb.

"Every year we submit the names of best elementary and high school athletes to the

International Association of Athletics Federations which compiled all the names given by member federations," said Tebuteb. "From there, they pick out names of several athletes who will get free training from developed countries."

Tebuteb said one of their options is to use the field at Hopwood Junior High School.

"We're planning to meet with the coaches of all the schools to ask them about their opinion. As of now, we're open to any suggestions coming from everyone. Again, we're thinking of the safety of all the kids."

He added that fixing the facility temporarily, which was the same thing they did last year, is no longer an alterna-

tive since more bubbles have formed on the track surface.

"Last year, with the help of some Precinct 3 volunteers, we managed to fix the track temporarily. Paul Ackerman provided some of the materials. What we did is cut some holes on the bubbles to let the air out, pushed it down, and put tape on it."

"We can't do the same thing right now since there are a lot of bubbles and black patches all over the surface."

Meanwhile, NMSA is hoping to start with the bidding process for the resurfacing once NMHC gives its clearance to begin the project to avoid the rainy season. At least two months are needed for putting the adhesive and laying out the track.

SSC

From Page 28

Carol Lynn Pierce and coach Suzy Kindel—performed a three-minute routine to the tune of the Lion Sleeps Tonight.

Husband and wife Joshua Mamiko Berger, brothers Akira and Wataru Kadokura, Lenno-suke Suzuki, R.J. Pierce, Tiffany Lin, and Yumiko Mizuno did the song on their ukuleles.

The Dolphins started their routine with a tap, followed by a ballet leg, kip, pinwheel, two-man back dolphin, marching legs, 'Eiffel Tower,' front walkover with torpedo sculling, and 'oceania' with a 180-degree twist.

Each move drew cheers from spectators that included both SSC and Tsunami Saipan swim-

mers, volunteer timers, and parents of swimmers. Some friends of the performers also showed up, including the 92-year-old mother of Jill Derickson—Mina Neidrauer—who, according to Kindel stood on deck critiquing them during several practices

The number was well received that the Dolphins had a hard time hearing the music coming from the ukuleles. "Because of all the clapping we couldn't really hear the music like we could during our practices. But fortunately we had learned the routine to a serious of counts so it worked out OK. The audience's enthusiasm and support was unexpected which made it so exciting," Kindel said.

Well-wishers surrounded the Dolphins after their performance, congratulating them and giving them flowers and leis. "I was definitely fighting tears when Atsuko's daughter Ayaka presented me with the lei. It was so unexpected. Then

Carol Lynn walked up with a bouquet of flowers and another handmade lei. I understand the Dolphins were out picking flowers early that morning before they all worked the swim meet! It was a wonderful and touching gesture of thanks," said Kindel, who had trip down memory lane as she did synchronized swimming in high school.

Kindel added she was a bit nervous before the performance, but gained confidence the moment she saw their supporters.

"I was very nervous as I haven't performed in so many years. I was worried I would do something wrong because we had made some recent changes to the routine. I kept running through the routine in my mind and in the restroom. But once on

the deck the audience support somehow took away my nervousness," the 63-year-old SSC Dolphins member added.

"From the input I have received from friends and from watching the video, the routine was performed well. I think the audience was excited as many knew we had been practicing but had never seen any synchronized swimming. Most people don't understand how difficult this sport is and we were performing hard stunts back to back while trying to synchronize to each other," Kindel said.

The Dolphins thanked all those who made their performance a huge success.

"Thanks to Jennifer Kogure for donating the nail polish; coach Gary and the Kan Pacific Life-

guards for moving lanes lines for our routine and practices; and to the Ukulele players Josh, Mami and Tiffany took timeout during their lunch hour swims to play for our practices. This is just another example of the fun and family orientation of the Saipan Swim Club," said Kindel, who credited Pierce for helping her with the different stunts, costume design, and choreography.

After their successful demonstration, the group, which trained for about nine months, will take a break before returning to practice in April to learn new routines.

"I personally would love to do a duet with Carol Lynn Pierce and would love to see what the four 'Japanese Mamas' could develop for a routine," Kindel said.

2014 SSS Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament Awards Ceremony

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Matansa players and coach Ho Jin Woo pose with their girls U15 championship trophy during the awards ceremony for the 2014 SSS Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament early this month at the TSL Sports Complex.



Real Crispy Pata players and coaches Jehn Joyner, standing right, and Kennedy Izuka, standing left, pose for a group photo after winning the boys U15 title.



Team Betde, composed of Tan Holdings FC players, pose with their medals. Also in the photo are team official Ladyvir Canape, left, and Tan Holdings FC president Eli Arago.



The Oranger Rangers pose with their Fair Play award in the boys U15 division.



Sisig United players and coaches John Taisacan, right, and John Diego Masga pose with their Fair Play trophy in the co-ed U12 division.



Girly Flowers & Rainbows players receive the Fair Play award in the girls U15 division.



Astig Futsal and Team Betde players and supporters pose for a photo at the conclusion of the tournament.



Girls U15 MVP Angel Sally.



Boys U15 MVP Evan Belcher.



Co-ed U12 MVP Thaiphi Austria.



Davis' dunks
aplenty lead
Pelicans past
76ers, 99-74

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

Sharapova to
play Makarova
in Australian
Open
semifinals

PAGE 25



28 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2015

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Contrasting wins for MHS, GCA

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

League-leading Marianas High School and Grace Christian Academy defeated their respective foes in contrasting fashion in the all-varsity match in the 2014-2015 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Volleyball League yesterday at the MHS Gymnasium.

MHS scored a quick 25-19, 25-8 victory over Kagman High School for its eighth straight win, while GCA had to grind out a 22-25, 25-21, 15-12 decision against Saipan International School to tie their victims and idle Mt. Carmel School for second to fourth spots with 5-3 slates.

The Lady Ayuyus put up a challenge in the first set as they battled the defending champions Lady Dolphins for every point before losing steam in



the latter stages of the opening frame.

The Lady Dolphins zoomed to a 6-1 lead in the second and were never threatened after that, as

See GCA on Page 26

JON PEREZ
A Grace Christian Academy player spikes the ball, while her teammates look on in their varsity game against Saipan International School in the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Volleyball League yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Mariana Athletics president Ramon A. Tebuteb said they have to look for an alternative venue as some of their events would be pushed back due to the resurfacing of the Oleai track facility.

"We have to look at other options since NMSA will be closing the track once resurfacing begins. We will be changing the dates of some events, especially those NMA events that are held at the track facility," Tebuteb told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview yesterday.



Northern Marianas Sports Association, through a Com-

munity Development Block Grant from the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., is working on getting the rubber surface fixed this year after black patches and bubbles have formed on the decade-old facility.

Tebuteb, one of the six representatives of Saipan's Precinct 3, said finding another venue will be one of the agenda in NMA's meeting tomorrow at 5:30pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

The McDonald's-Public School System All-Schools Track and Field Championships is one of the NMA

See NMA on Page 26

NMA to look for All Schools alternative venue



Northern Marianas Athletics officials are looking at using the Hopwood Junior High School field as alternative venue for the McDonald's All-Schools Track and Field Championships when resurfacing of the Oleai track facility starts.

SSC Dolphins 'show' well applauded

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Saipan Swim Club Dolphins' first synchronized swimming performance was a hit, drawing a loud applause from spectators

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The SSC Dolphins show one part of their synchronized swimming routine last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

See SSC on Page 26

who stayed at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool after last Saturday's SSC Pentathlon Meet.

Dressed in solid black suit and tights that has lilac asymmetrical lines at the bottom part and with shimmering 'flower' on their left wrist and white caps designed with different flowers, the six Dolphins—Kaoru Takahashi, Atsuko Sato, Nami Kadokura, Ayumi Kaga, assistant coach

JON PEREZ